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# Saipan Tribune

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**OPINION METER**

This week's poll:

Should non-NMI descent U.S. citizens be allowed to vote on issues relating to Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution?

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**Best Month**

U.S. manufacturers ended 2011 with their best month of growth.

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**Three-Way**

Rick Santorum, Mitt Romney and Ron Paul wage a three-way struggle for supremacy.

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George Clooney is pulling back from the very job that brought him renown.

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Study highlights stressed state of NMI's coral reef fisheries. PAGE 9

## FOR FAILING TO SHOW CW RECEIPT OR PERMIT

# Over 100 food stamp vouchers on hold

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Over 100 food stamp beneficiaries are experiencing a delay in the issuance of their vouchers due to a new policy that requires foreign parents to show proof that they are legally on island.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that since December, the local food stamp office has been requiring nonresident parents of U.S. citizen children who receive food stamp benefits to present their CW receipts from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service as proof that they have been petitioned for a CW permit by

**RELATED NEWS**
- Medicaid includes CW receipt as requirement. PAGE 3

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# Nov. 2011 visitor arrivals up 8 pct.

## » Delta Air Lines to launch charter flights from Korea

November 2011 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands were up 8 percent compared to November 2010, according to the latest numbers of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

In its report issued yesterday, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 29,275 visitors in November compared to 27,179 in November 2010. The jump also marks the first increase in arrivals this calendar year compared to last.

For the first time, arrivals from Korea outpaced Japan. Arrivals from Korea were up 9 percent to 11,389 visitors, nearly 2,000 more visitors than tourists from Japan for the month. An increase in available air seats contributed to the jump. Asiana Airlines began

See ARRIVALS on Page 4

# Two men rob sleeping man at Fishing Base

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A 34-year-old man was slightly injured last week when two masked men robbed him at knifepoint inside his parked car at the Garapan Fishing Base.

The victim, a Chinese national, sustained minor injuries on the right cheek, according to police officer Jason Tarkong yesterday.

See TWO MEN on Page 4

**FIRST SUNSET**

**Bright hues of red and gold inundate the first sunset of 2012, taken on the beach in Oleai on Jan. 1, 2012.**

LJ CASTRO

# Businesses slam 'excessive' $500 fire re-inspection, $500 permit fees

## » Candles, Christmas trees need $100 special permit
## » DPS Fire says one can't put dollar figure on safety

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Commercial establishments need to get a $100 special permit for candles and open flame devices, as well as $100 per Christmas tree, among other things, on top of the $500 fire re-inspection fee and $500 for fire code permit that some businesses describe as "excessive" and unjustifiable.

"They're killing small businesses like us," James Han, owner of QQ Car Rental, said in an interview yesterday.

QQ Car Rental and some 30 other business establishments have undergone or are undergoing random inspections to ensure their compliance with the CNMI Fire Code, and the inspections are done by the Department of Public Safety's Commonwealth Fire Division.

The Fire Division plans to inspect all 3,000 licensed businesses in the CNMI.

On top of minor violations their car rental business has to address, including having English labels on fire extinguish-

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# Local

# Almost $1M in excess personnel spending by Legislature

## » As Senate panel holds 'oversight' hearing on 1st quarter 2012 spending

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Almost $1 million in the CNMI government's total $4.176 million excess spending just for personnel alone in fiscal year 2011 was incurred by the Legislature, whose members have yet to fully review Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's FY 2011 report showing a $25.8 million deficit.

At the same time, Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that her panel will conduct an oversight hearing on the first quarter of FY 2012's budget "to ensure that we don't incur additional deficit."

House Ways and Means chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), along with Taimanao, Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), and other lawmakers, were also surprised to learn that the governor's financial report included almost $1 million in personnel overspending by the Legislature.

"I hope that's an error, but if that's accurate, that is too much and irresponsible," said Basa, adding that he will further review the governor's report.

Fitial reported that the $25.8 million deficit was a combination of $565,456 in revenue shortfall and over $25.2 million in overspending at a time when the revised budget was only $122 million in FY 2011.

The bulk of these over-expenditures were from the Department of Public Health, its Commonwealth Health Center, Medical Referral, and Medicaid.

Of the $25.2 million over-expenditure, almost $4.2 million was in the area of personnel.

And of the $4.2 million, over $2.8 million was incurred by DPH and its component agencies.

The Legislature, for its part, incurred $931,101 in overspending for personnel alone.

Taimanao said the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee will assess the governor's report and find out why the Legislature was reported to have almost $1 million in overspending for personnel alone.

This review is in addition to an oversight hearing on the first quarter of the 2012 budget.

Yumul said the almost $1 million in excess spending for personnel might have been caused by the Legislature's failure to comply with the governor's request to reduce allotment by 9.76 percent when he revised the FY 2011 budget from $132.5 million to $122 million.

He also pointed out that the personnel spending includes not only lawmakers' salaries that are constitutionally protected, but also contributions to the Retirement Fund, life insurance, and medical insurance.

Besides DPH and the Legislature, the other government departments and agencies with excess spending on personnel alone include:

- Department of Public Safety, $651,959;
- Office of the Attorney General, $255,795;
- Rota, $398,527;
- Judiciary, $172,143; and
- Tinian, $97,951.

The $25.8 million budget deficit in FY 2011 despite 16-hour work cuts biweekly and other austerity measures brings the CNMI government's "estimated" total cumulative deficit to $370 million. The deficit in FY 2009 was $300.8 million and in 2008, $256.3 million.

# Consumer survey to be used for recomputing utility allowance

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. is planning to conduct a consumer survey that will be taken into consideration in the computation of its new utility allowance schedule for Section 8 and Multifamily Housing tenants.

Program and Housing Division manager Zerlyn Taimanao said yesterday that it was the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Field Office in Hawaii that recommended undertaking the survey for consumers who are not in their program.

"It's because it could give an estimated amount as to what normally the consumption is per bedroom or the amount of people in the household," she explained.

Taimanao disclosed that they have already finished the survey form.

"We're working now to giving it to certain unassisted individuals. We're looking at probably 100 respondents," Taimanao told *Saipan Tribune*.

Taimanao believes that this would be the first consumer survey for housing due to the increase in the rates of Commonwealth Utilities Corp. last year.

"If there shows to be an increase by 10 percent or more in utilities, we have to adjust the utility schedule. But I guess before I came on board, there was no evidence of a 10-percent increase. Maybe close, but not 10 percent as opposed to last year," she said.

Taimanao noted that the survey results will no longer be presented to the board during its next meeting but will just be considered in their new utility allowance schedule calculation, which has to be approved by the board.

In coming up with the new utility allowance schedule, Taimanao said they will also take into account the reality that CNMI residents in general do not use water heaters because of the island weather and electric stoves since most prefer butane or gas stoves.

This would affect the new utility allowance schedule, according to Taimanao. "It could either bring it down a little bit—not too much, just a little bit—or it could stay the same. It all depends on the results of the survey," she added.

# Two beer thieves get 30 days in prison

Two suspects in the burglary of a bar in Garapan where two bottles of beer where stolen pleaded guilty yesterday and were each sentenced to 30 days in prison.

Christopher Raymond Kaipat, 23, and Mwoloscholopi Crisogino Litulumar Romolor, 24, pleaded guilty to theft.

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Kaipat and Romolor to six months in prison, all suspended except for 30 days.

Wiseman gave the defendants credit for the time they have already served in jail.

Kaipat will not serve further jail time as he has already spent 30 days in jail. Romolor, who was given three days credit for the time he has already served in jail, was ordered to start serving the remaining term of his sentence tomorrow, Friday, at 8am.

Wiseman required the two to each pay $100 fine, $25 court assessment fee, and probation fee.

Kaipat was ordered to perform 20 hours of community service, while Romolor was required to perform 50 hours.

According to the plea agreement, on Nov. 16, 2011, Kaipat and Romolor burglarized Round Two Bar on Nov. 16, 2011, on Saipan and stole two bottles of beer.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Kaipat and Romolor with burglary, theft, conspiracy to commit burglary, and conspiracy to commit theft.

Assistant attorney general Tiberius D. Mocanu prosecuted the case. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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# Medicaid includes CW receipt as requirement for benefit claims

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Like other government agencies, Medicaid is also now requiring the submission of new documents for non-U.S. parents of eligible children under the program. This may either be a contract worker permit or receipt issued by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services justifying their lawful presence in the Commonwealth.

However, unlike other agencies, Medicaid administrator Helen C. Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that the additional document is not a major requirement for any recipient or applicant to be denied their benefits.

Sablan said the Medicaid program, from the beginning, has required some documents that include the local labor-issued entry permits or umbrella permits. The new requirements are just replacements for these permits that expired last year.

In the event non-U.S. parents of Medicaid recipients fail to show these new permits, she said it does not affect their application and eligibility.

Sablan

"It will not affect their application. We still give the child's supply of Medicaid and we don't turn them away. We just make a note [on their file] that they have yet to submit their CW receipt or permit," Sablan explained. She revealed that the office has no pending cases related to this.

Sablan said that the inclusion of the CW receipt/permit is not a federal mandate but an initiative of the local Medicaid office.

Sablan, meantime, appealed to applicants for their patience as the office is short of staff to deal with all the processing of all applications and renewals. The Medicaid office has only three personnel, including Sablan. The office receives up to 50 visits on any given day.

Two more staffers will be added as they are converting the two trainees from Workforce Investment Agency to regular employees.

She said the increasing number of eligible recipients every year is resulting in the government incurring bigger expenses for the program.

Each year, the federal cap is set at $5 million, which requires equal amount from the CNMI government. Any expenses in excess of $10 million funding is shouldered by the state. In fiscal year 2011, Obamacare reduced the local matching requirement of the CNMI from 50 percent to 45 percent until 2019. Funding for the program also significantly increased last year.

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# Prosecutor Lorfing also resigns

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Prosecutor Russell Lorfing has resigned from the already understaffed Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division.

Lorfing

Assistant attorney general Lorfing confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that he turned in his resignation letter yesterday to Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham.

Lorfing's contract expires on June 12, 2012. His resignation will take effect in mid-February. He has been with the OAG for a year and seven months now.

Lorfing said he respects the OAG's leadership, but that they have differences. He refused to elaborate.

Lorfing will be joining the law firm of F. Matthew Smith, whom he believes is "a very ethical, genuine, and competent attorney."

Lorfing said the austerity measures and the constant threat of more austerity measures have been affecting not only the lawyers but also the staff at the OAG. He cited numerous unpaid holidays that, according to him, are cutting 8 percent of his salary. He disclosed that he was not paid the salary that was promised him.

During his term, Lorfing conducted eight jury trials and five bench trials. Of the 13 cases, there were 10 convictions. Next month, he will conduct three more trials.

Lorfing will be the 16th assistant attorney general to leave the OAG during Buckingham's term as attorney general.

Acting chief prosecutor Peter Prestley told *Saipan Tribune* that Lorfing is one of their best trial attorneys.

"We're sorry to see him go. But he's taking a new job on Saipan and he's excited about it. We wish him luck," Prestley said.

He said that, with Lorfing's resignation, the OAG's Criminal Division will be left with only six prosecutors, including himself and Cinta Kaipat.

Prestley said they expect one lawyer from the U.S. mainland to join them next month. He said their goal is to have eight prosecutors, including the chief prosecutor.

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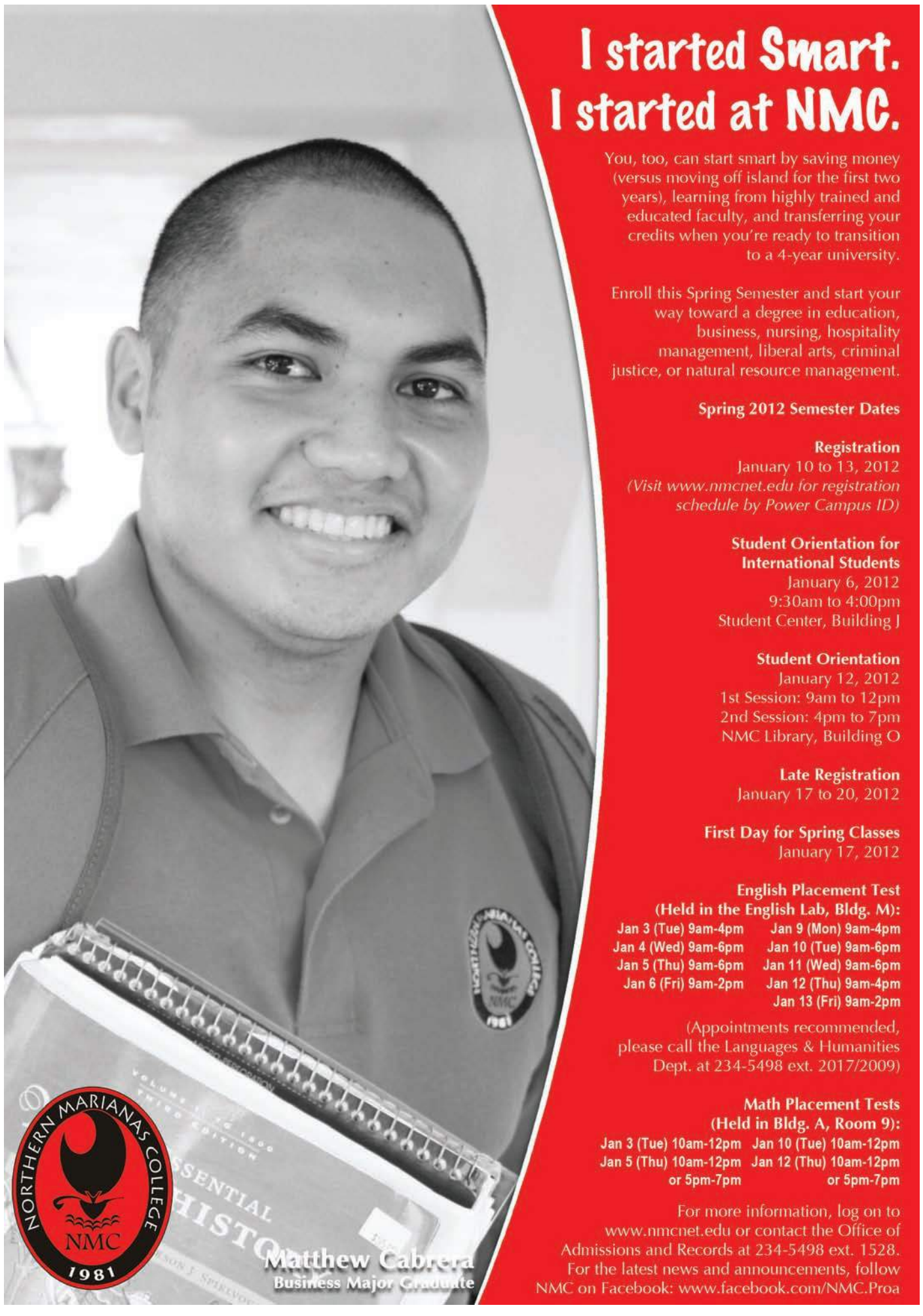
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Student Orientation for International Students
January 6, 2012
9:30am to 4:00pm
Student Center, Building J
Student Orientation
January 12, 2012
1st Session: 9am to 12pm
2nd Session: 4pm to 7pm
NMC Library, Building O
Late Registration
January 17 to 20, 2012
First Day for Spring Classes
January 17, 2012
English Placement Test
(Held in the English Lab, Bldg. M):
Jan 3 (Tue) 9am-4pm
Jan 4 (Wed) 9am-6pm
Jan 5 (Thu) 9am-6pm
Jan 6 (Fri) 9am-2pm
Jan 9 (Mon) 9am-4pm
Jan 10 (Tue) 9am-6pm
Jan 11 (Wed) 9am-6pm
Jan 12 (Thu) 9am-4pm
Jan 13 (Fri) 9am-2pm
(Appointments recommended, please call the Languages & Humanities Dept. at 234-5498 ext. 2017/2009)
Math Placement Tests
(Held in Bldg. A, Room 9):
Jan 3 (Tue) 10am-12pm
Jan 5 (Thu) 10am-12pm or 5pm-7pm
Jan 10 (Tue) 10am-12pm
Jan 12 (Thu) 10am-12pm or 5pm-7pm
For more information, log on to www.nmcnet.edu or contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 ext. 1528.
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## BUSINESSES

*From Page 1*

ers, Han said they have to pay at least $1,000 for inspection and permit.

He said for an inspection that lasted for a few minutes, businesses have to pay $500, which he said is "unfair."

"It's a surprise to us. I believe there's not much information about the fees," Han added.

Bob Bracken, co-owner of Spicy Thai Noodle Place, which recently relocated from San Antonio to Garapan, said yesterday that they've been doing business for almost 20 years "and this is the first time we've come across this kind of inspection, which we have to pay for $500."

"We also have to pay $500 for the permit. We support the Fire Division and the government but given the state of the economy, we think that the fees and permits are just too much. We also do not have a problem correcting the violations they found, but the fees are just too high. Had they done sufficient public information, businesses like us could have prepared for it," Bracken said in an interview yesterday afternoon at his restaurant located across the fire station in Garapan.

Bracken believed that the Department of Public Works' Building Safety Code inspection, which also included fire safety checks, already covered the same items that the Fire Division is trying to address with its ongoing random inspections.

He considers this as "duplication of government duties."

Bracken said their establishment was visited at least four times in a two-week period, sometimes by up to six personnel from the Commonwealth Fire Division per visit to inspect their restaurant.

The businessman showed a Dec. 20 letter that listed six "violations" found in the restaurant, including a lack of Class "K" extinguisher for kitchen operations, the need to mount and label fire extinguishers, exposed wiring in the utility and janitor's room, electrical panel clearly labeled in English, candle in restroom requires a special permit, and the presence of spliced wiring in the building.

A visit to the restaurant yesterday afternoon showed that these violations were already "corrected."

But still, the restaurant is being required to pay the $500 re-inspection fee and secure a Fire Code permit costing $500, for a total of $1,000, by Jan. 17.

"They said if we don't pay this $1,000 by Jan. 17, we will have to pay an additional $500," Bracken told *Saipan Tribune.*

### Fire Division chief speaks out

Thomas Manglona, chief of the Department of Public Safety's Commonwealth Fire Division, said yesterday that a permit of some $42 a month or $500 a year outweighs the benefits of having a business establishment that complies with fire safety laws and regulations that will help save lives and property.

Manglona said many of the residential and commercial establishment fires in the community could have been prevented if only these comply with the Fire Code.

He clarified that the Fire Division does not charge for the first inspection, but only charges for the re-inspection because of violations found in the first round of inspection.

Manglona said if there were no violations found in the initial inspection, then there won't be a need to re-inspect the establishment.

He said the $500 permit that businesses were talking about is for the "certificate of compliance."

Manglona said the Fire Code has been in place for decades but they are trying to fully enforce the law, especially with the spate of structural fires on Saipan recently.

He said the Fire Division understands the concerns of businesses they have so far inspected, but he said "we cannot put a dollar figure on safety."

Manglona said complying with requirements such as having smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, and sprinklers are a small price to pay compared to preventing fire.

He added these fees and permits are also a small price compared to the cost of addressing fire situations. For example, it takes at least 16 firefighters to suppress a structural fire, $200,000 to $300,000 to buy a fire truck depending on the size and type, and $20,000 to $30,000 to provide basic training to an entry-level firefighter.

Esther Sacramento, officer-in-charge at Sang Jee Rent-A-Car, said with the taxes paid by businesses to the government, one would think that businesses are not supposed to pay extra for the Fire Division to inspect each commercial establishment.

"Isn't it their responsibility to inspect? Why would businesses need to pay for the inspection? If they found violations, then businesses have to comply. And only if businesses do not comply within reasonable time, then that should only be the time when they are asked to pay. As it is now, we have to pay $1,000 right away," she said.

Sacramento said during an inspection in December, their rental car business was informed of violations such as a lack of fire extinguisher and smoke detectors. She said they are now working to buy these items.

"If we don't get these by Jan. 17, they said we have to pay $1,000. That's besides the re-inspection fee and the permit, that's my understanding. We are barely surviving as a business, now this additional expense," she said.

Douglas Brennan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday that the phones were busy at the Chamber offices "from businesses wanting to know about the newly required fire permits."

He said their first question to the government will be: "What is the basis for this new requirement, and why is it just now this is being required?" The second one, he said, is seek justification for the required $500 fire permits and $500 fire inspection.

"It's just hard to imagine with all the new costs to businesses within the past two years, this additional hit from the government is really necessary. I understand there's an annual $100 fire permit for Christmas trees," Brennan added.

He said they will advise Chamber members "as soon as we get any information, although I must say an advance notice by the Department of Public Safety would have been appreciated."

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members.

A notice that came out from DPS in November stated that "the Fire Prevention and Arson Investigation Unit of the Department of Public Safety's Fire Division has updated its fire code fees and fines and will begin the permitting process and enforcement of Public Law 11-56, also known as the Commonwealth Fire Safety Code of 1988, effective November 2011."

There was no mention of the specific fees, among other things.

In that same announcement published in the newspaper, the public is urged to contact the following for more information:

On Saipan:

- Dispatch: 664-9003, 664-9004
- Capt. Julian Tagabuel, 664-9032 (office), 898-7714 (cellular)
- Lt. Kevin Aldan, 664-9135 (office), 898-3414 (cellular)

On Tinian:

- Lt. Augustine Dosalua: 433-0476 (office), 898-3461 (cellular)

On Rota:

- Lt. Ron Ogo: 532-3736 (office), 898-3448 (cellular) (DPS)

The Commonwealth Fire Division's chief, Manglona, added that they have so far covered only 1 percent of the estimated 3,000 licensed businesses in the CNMI, based on data from the Department of Finance.

"The inspections are random. Concerns are welcome but people have to understand that the government needs to enforce the law. And like any other permitting agency, we charge for the services," he added.

## TWO MEN

*From Page 1*

Police said the suspects, described as wearing dark clothing and dark masks, took the victim's $600 cash and fled in a dark Mitsubishi sedan.

Preliminary police investigation showed that the victim was sleeping in his car parked at Fishing Base last Wednesday, Dec. 28, at 7pm, when two masked men woke him up. One suspect opened the driver's door while the second suspect entered the front passenger door, pointed a knife at the victim's neck, and demanded money.

One of the suspects hit the victim in the face. The victim surrendered $600 cash from his pocket. The robbers then fled.

Police were contacted but the report did not indicate who called the police.

The NMI Crime Stoppers Program is seeking the community's assistance for information about the robbery. Crime Stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest.

A day before the Fishing Base heist, a Japanese female tourist was robbed by an unidentified man as she was walking along Chalan Pale Arnold Road near Palms Resort Saipan in San Roque.

The 34-year-old victim was not injured, but she lost her beige Gucci purse containing a Channel wallet, $500 cash, and a dive computer watch.

The victim was unable to give complete descriptions of the suspect and his getaway vehicle.

Last Nov. 16, a female Japanese tourist was hurt after being dragged several meters away by a car when she chased a robber who grabbed her bag along Beach Road, Garapan. Police arrested two suspects after a week.

## OVER 100

*From Page 1*

their employers.

Some of those affected by this new policy told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that a large number of recipients have been denied their vouchers because of their inability to show a receipt from USCIS.

Swingly Ringlen, a case worker at the Nutrition Assistance Program office, confirmed this new policy yesterday, saying that the CW receipt or permit itself is among the documents they now require of all recipients and applicants. Ringlen explained that the local NAP office included these documents as among the requirements mandated by department policy.

"Yes, we do require the submission of the CW receipt [or permit itself] from the parents of U.S. citizen kids who are availing of the food stamp service. We need to make sure that their parents are legally employed here in the CNMI," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

According to Ringlen, NAP began requiring the additional document since the expiration of umbrella permits and entry permits issued by the local Labor Department on Nov. 27, 2011.

"These documents [CW permit or receipt] serve as replacement to those umbrella permits and entry permits then issued by our local Labor. In requiring these records for their files, we are not violating any law because it is stipulated in our manual [local policy]," he said.

Ringlen confirmed that over 100 vouchers are temporarily on hold since December 2011 pending the submission of these new requirements. He revealed that the number continues to increase.

"As soon as they submit us the CW permit or receipt, we issue their food stamp checks. Like today, a lady came in this morning and was able to get her December check upon showing us the required documentations," he said.

He said the NAP office has been assured by USCIS that the federal agency issued receipts to all nonresident workers who have been petitioned by their employers.

Applicants who cannot provide or were not petitioned by their employers will not be qualify for the program, he said. "That's one major requirement now."

Ringley stressed that even if the CW receipt or permit is required only by the local NAP, it is not a violation of any federal rule related to the food stamp program, which is 100 percent federally funded.

Ringlen encouraged new applicants to the program to attend an orientation on Jan. 17-18 to get more information about the program and its requirements.

Food stamp vouchers are issued every first week of each month to families who qualify under the low-income threshold.

### Same requirement

According to Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao, this new requirement (CW receipt and permit) applies to other programs of the department.

Among these programs are the Child Care Development Fund, the Office on Aging, the Community Service Block Grant Services, and the Low Income Household Energy Assistance Program.

Faisao confirmed that this new department policy became effective on Nov. 27, 2011, when U.S. federalization took effect in the Commonwealth.

He said that applicants for NAP assistance and other social services under the department are being reviewed accordingly based on these new requirements and their eligibility.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has been giving the CNMI $12 million for NAP since 2009; the amount was increased last year. NAP is funded through a block grant and has been implemented in the CNMI since 1982.

## ARRIVALS

*From Page 1*

operating Busan-Saipan charter flights on Nov. 16, 2011, and will continue through March 2012, representing a gain of 7,614 seats during this period. In addition, it is expected that charter flights operated by Delta Air Lines will add an additional 3,094 seats from Busan starting January 5, 2012.

"Delta is now entering the Korea-Saipan market for the first time, an exciting new development which bodes well for continued growth in Korean arrivals to the Northern Marianas," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "The key is to support these new flights with adequate promotions and build enough demand for the flights to continue."

In further good news from the Korea market, Asiana Airlines boosted its Incheon-Saipan service from 10 to 14 weekly flights beginning Oct. 31, and in tandem with the increase in the number of weekly flights to double-daily service, has also increased the size of the aircraft on the route to Boeing 767s with 250 seats each. This drove an additional 4,491 seats out of Seoul to the CNMI in November. Finally, Asiana had also upgraded its nighttime service to an Airbus 330 with 275 seats from Oct. 1 to Dec. 4, resulting in a gain of 4,312 seats.

Arrivals from Japan dropped 17 percent to 9,527, largely due to the decrease in airseats from Narita. In November 2011, the NMI received two daily flights from Narita compared to three daily flights in November 2010. However, Delta Air Lines launched a third weekly flight again on Dec. 29, 2011, supplementing the current two daily flights from Narita with four new flights a week using a Boeing 757 with 182 seats. Asiana Airlines re-launched daily service from Osaka on Dec. 22, 2011, using an Airbus 321 with 177 seats through March 5, when the airline is expected to upgrade the daily Osaka service to a Boeing 767 with 250 seats through April 6.

Arrivals from China jumped 156 percent in November to 5,936 visitors, an increase of nearly 4,000 more visitors than last November. This November the NMI received six flights weekly from China, compared to only two flights weekly last November.

Arrivals from Russia posted a decrease of 17 percent to 240 in November 2011. Arrivals were also down in November from the United States (52 percent to 476), Guam (5 percent to 1,336), and the Philippines (9 percent to 50).

Arrivals increased in November from Hong Kong (63 percent to 49) and Other Areas (24 percent to 272).

# NMC opts not to turn in supplemental report to ACCJC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College did not submit a supplemental report to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges as earlier planned, opting instead to have NMC president Sharon Y. Hart deliver the report orally before commission members.

In a statement to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, NMC disclosed that Hart will be attending the commission assembly on Jan. 10-12 in San Francisco where she is expected to speak to the group.

"The college had opted not to provide a supplemental report at this time. Pursuant to the policies of the [ACCJC], the supplemental report is optional," the NMC statement said.

In her report to the commission, Hart will provide further information to demonstrate how NMC is continuing to meet accreditation standards and eligibility requirements.

The commission lifted NMC's show-cause status in July 2011, placing the college instead under a less severe sanction of probation after determining that there remain concerns from the previous show-cause order that the college has yet to fully address and rectify. Among these concerns are deficiencies in three areas: autonomy from outside interference, financial management and integrity, and governance and accountability.

Hart

A four-member commission team was on island in November last year to validate the follow-up report that NMC turned in last October. The team was expected to issue a report after that visit.

Due to the commission's policy on public disclosure, however, the college is unable at this time to provide any further details about the Oct. 15 report or the oral report that the president will be making at the ACCJC meeting.

"NMC must maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality with ACCJC at this juncture in the accreditation process," the college statement adds.

It, however, assured that the visiting team report and other accreditation documents will be accessible on the NMC website once the accrediting commission indicates that it is appropriate to do so.

Hart said yesterday that the college is already preparing for the self-evaluation report that will be submitted to the commission later this year.

"On Nov. 29, 2011, the college community participated in an accreditation workshop at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center to discuss initial findings for the 2012 Self-Evaluation Report. Everyone at the college will now work with accreditation standard teams to prepare the 2012 Self-Evaluation Report," she said.

Hart said the college accreditation reaffirmation team and accreditation standard teams continue to meet weekly in preparation for the 2012 Comprehensive Self-Evaluation. She encouraged community members to visit the college's website (www.nmcnet.edu) to learn more about their accreditation efforts.

# Fitial to award Navy Hill property to healthcare corp.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The newly created Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will receive today government property that it could use to generate revenue for the public hospital.

Chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta said yesterday that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will formally hand to him and board members the warranty deed for a property on Navy Hill.

Babauta estimates the property to be about 38,000 to 40,000 square meters and is situated at the corner of Navy Hill Road and Middle Road. It will be designated under the corporation's name.

"This is part of my effort and the corporation effort to widen our investment opportunity for more revenue generation for the corporation and our hospital," he said.

Babauta said the awarding of the land title is also in keeping with the spirit of Public Law 16-51, which created the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Act. The law, he said, authorizes the corporation to engage in an entrepreneurial approach to revenue generation and stipulates that proceeds from any investment will go to hospital operations.

Babauta said the corporation may lease out the property so it could help augment the financial needs of the Commonwealth Health Center.

The corporation took over the operation of the Department of Public Health in October last year with only $5 million as seed money.

Saying the amount is insufficient to meet all hospital needs, the corporation board submitted to the Legislature last week a $38.5 million supplemental budget for fiscal year 2012, which includes the $5 million seed money. However, due to limited government resources expected this fiscal year, the request may face rough sailing at the Legislature.

Corporate records show that majority of the revenue generated by the corporation's three health facilities—CHC, Tinian Health Center, and Rota Health Center—come from patient services. Of these three, only CHC is Medicare-certified and participates in the Medicare program. The other two, according to its budget submission, are being prepared for Medicare survey-readiness.

The corporation stated that its goal is to generate more revenue to ensure a balanced budget at the end of the fiscal year 2012.

## PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Edoni Site Remedial Action

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announces its intent to initiate remedial action of Edoni Site in January 2012 in accordance with the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS). You are invited to attend a public meeting to learn about the DERP-FUDS environmental restoration process and the remediation method to be implemented at the site. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives will be available during the meeting to answer your questions regarding elements of the remedial action.

Meeting Date: Thursday, January 12, 2012
Meeting Time: 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Meeting Location: CNMI Governor's Conference Room

For more information regarding the planned remedial action, please contract Helene Takemoto, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District Project Manager at:

Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Honolulu District
Programs and Project Management Division
Environmental Branch
Building 252
Attn: CEPOH-PP-E (Helene Takemoto)
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440
Telephone: 808.438.6931
Fax: 808.438.6930
E-mail: FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil

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Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • www.ite.net

# House, Senate to hold joint meeting to map out goals

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugeno@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate and House of Representatives will hold a Jan. 12 joint leadership meeting wherein both camps are expected to identify priority bills and initiatives that need to be passed this year, including those seeking to help extend the NMI Retirement Fund's lifespan and generate additional revenues.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) did not specify the items that will be discussed when they issued the joint one-page memo yesterday.

But Manglona, in a phone interview, said he expects that everyone from the House and Senate leadership will come to the meeting "with an open mind" and "would welcome compromise" so that important pieces of legislation "can move forward."

Among the measures he hopes will be prioritized or passed by the House are those seeking to help the Retirement Fund, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., those related to the land alienation provision of the NMI Constitution or Article 12, scholarship and adoption of a Senate joint resolution to accept the governor's State of the Commonwealth Address in February, among other things.

"And I hope we will be able to set timelines. People would say 'enough talking already' and I agree. We need to act, for example, within 90 days after the joint leadership meeting," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune.*

The joint leadership meeting will be on Thursday, Jan. 12, at 9:30am in the speaker's conference room.

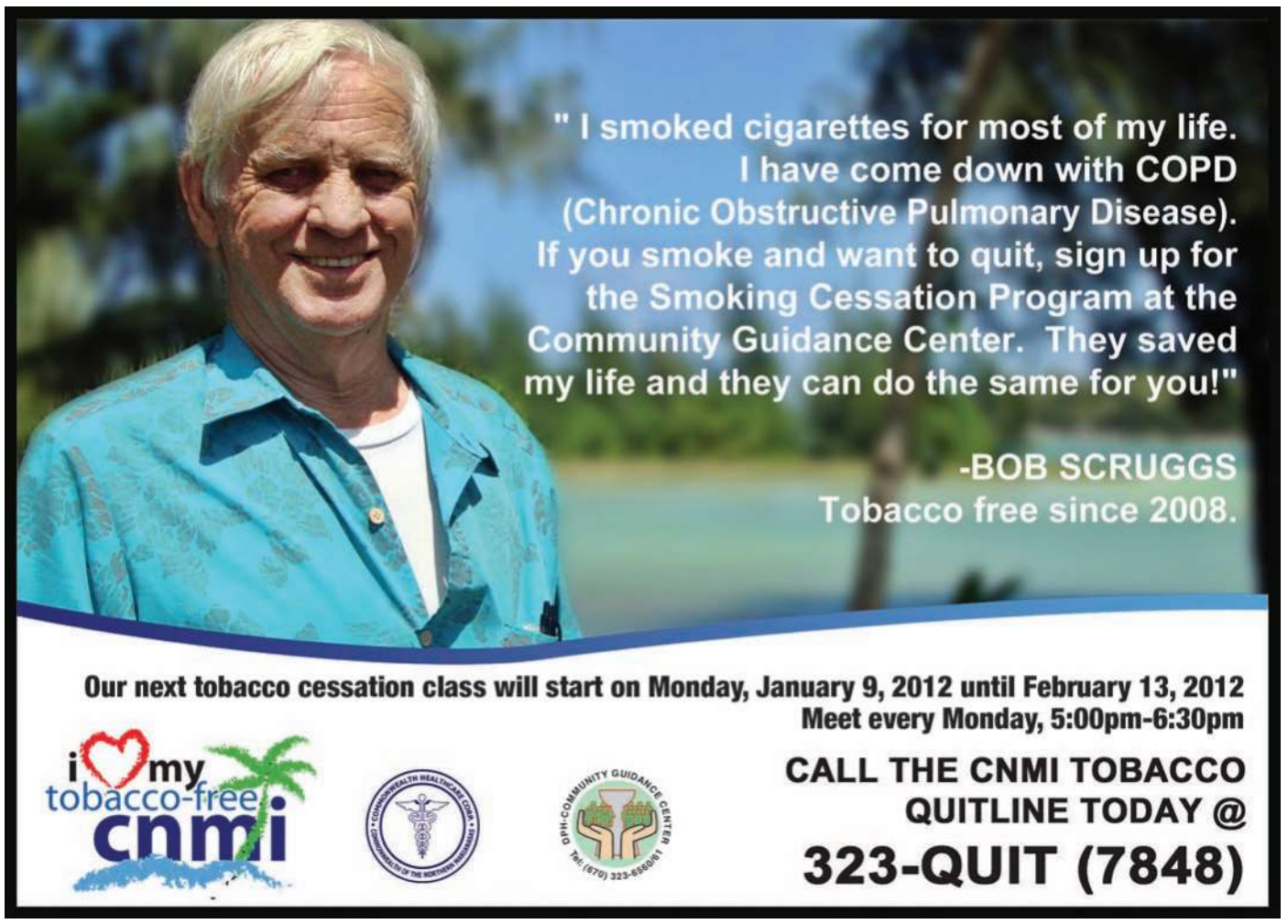
House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) separately said yesterday that during the Jan. 12 meeting, he will ask the members "to continue working together and to work extra hard on revenue-generation."

"We must prioritize legislation that will create revenue to help us provide greater public service and also save the Retirement Fund," he said.

Some House members said the leadership might bring up the House casino bill that's pending in the Senate, as one of those revenue-generating bills that they say will help restore the 80 hours biweekly among government employees, will help prolong the pension agency's lifespan, and help grow the economy.

Sen. Ralph Torres (Ind-Saipan) said all he knows is that the joint leadership meeting will discuss Fund issues and revenue-generating bills.

Other lawmakers asked yesterday said they have yet to know the meeting's agenda.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Community Guidance Center. They saved
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-BOB SCRUGGS
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QUITLINE TODAY @
323-QUIT (7848)

## Public library acquires more materials

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library saw a nearly 4-percent increase in its total library collection for fiscal year 2011.

From a total collection of 63,072, the library added 2,384 titles in fiscal year 2011, bringing its total collection to 65,456.

Of the added items, 13 percent or 310 titles were purchased through Library Friends. The rest of the items were McNaughton new titles, other books, as well as those purchased through a competitive grant last year.

"We attribute the increase to our proactive efforts to acquire books in direct response to patron requests as an integral component of our overall efforts to meet customer demands and to continually attract patron traffic and expand our patron base," executive director John Oliver Gonzales told *Saipan Tribune*.

Gonzales added, "Also, we made it our renewed commitment to allocate and invest as much local NMI government and federal [Institute of Museum and Library Services] grant funds to direct patron services, our most vital mission as a public library." ***(Clarissa V. David)***

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# High Court reverses ruling allowing kin to redeem auctioned lot

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has reversed a Superior Court ruling that allowed a relative of former Pacific Gardenia owner Ronald D. Sablan the right to redeem from buyers a piece of Sablan's land that was sold pursuant to a court order.

The high court vacated then Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona's judgment that the assignment was a valid transfer of Ronald Sablan's redemption rights, granting Antonio A. Sablan the right to redeem as a successor in interest.

The high tribunal also reversed Manglona's finding that Del A. Benson, Karen Benson, and Carlene Atalig Mitchell, the buyers of the foreclosed property at the auction, did not have standing to sue.

The high court remanded the case to the Superior Court for a determination regarding the application of equitable tolling to the time period for redemption and for further proceedings on the claim of fraud.

Justice pro tem Herbert D. Soll penned the High Court's opinion; justice pro tem Edward Manibusan concurred. Former chief justice Miguel S. Demapan heard the oral argument but retired from the Judiciary prior to the issuance of the judgment.

Sablan

The justices ruled that the trial court erred in finding that Antonio Sablan was Ronald Sablan's successor in interest and erred by finding the right to redeem is an alienable property right.

The justices also determined that the Bensons and Mitchell are proper plaintiffs and have standing to assert a claim of fraud and fraudulent conveyance.

The justices, in a footnote of their opinion, stressed that their finding does not speak to the merits—if any—of the underlying fraud claim, which will be for the trial court to decide.

According to court records, Ronald Sablan and his wife, Maria Ana T. Sablan, jointly obtained a $60,605.82 loan from Pacific Financial Corp. in 1992, secured by a mortgage on the couple's property in Chalan Kanoa and in Fina Sisu, Saipan.

In 1993, the Sablan couple executed and recorded a 55-year lease of a portion of the Fina Sisu property to Sy's Corp.

In 1998, the Sablan couple executed three more mortgages with the Bank of Saipan to secure loans totaling $946,476.34.

In 2003, the CNMI recorded additional tax liens against Sy's Corp. that totaled $2,287,055.91.

By April 2001, the Sablan couple was in default on the 1992 mortgage with PFC.

PFC filed a lawsuit to recover $69,205.73 in unpaid principal, interest on $57,816.08 of the principal from April 16, 2001, and for the sale of the property to satisfy the debt.

In 2002, PFC assigned all of its interest under the 1992 promissory note and mortgage to Pacific Asset Management Corp.

The court granted PFC's motion for judgment by default.

Pursuant to the default judgment, the property was placed on the market for sale. The property was sold on June 5, 2007, for $80,000. The purchasers were the Bensons, who intended to take a 55-year lease of the property, and Mitchell, who planned to acquire the title in fee. The court approved the sale.

In July 2007, Ronald Sablan executed an assignment of redemption rights, purporting to convey his right to redemption to his relative, Antonio Sablan, who lives in Guam. Antonio Sablan petitioned the court for approval of his exercise of redemption and tendered the proposed redemption price of $81,200 from the clerk of the court.

The Bensons and Mitchell opposed the petition, contending that the assignment is invalid and contrary to law.

In January 2008, then Superior Court Judge Manglona concluded that Ronald Sablan as judgment debtor "may assign his interest and that the assignment in this case is valid." Manglona ruled that the right of a mortgagor to redeem the mortgaged property following a foreclosure sale is purely statutory.

The Bensons and Mitchell, through counsel F. Matthew Smith, appealed to the Supreme Court to reverse that ruling. Smith raised two issues: (1) whether the trial court erred in holding that Antonio Sablan was a "successor in interest" and (2) whether the purchasers have standing to assert fraudulent conveyance.

In reversing the trial court's ruling, the justices said they hold that the right to redeem is not an alienable property right but a personal privilege that may not be separated from the underlying ownership in the real property. Thus, the justices said, the successor in interest must hold the same rights in the property as the judgment debtor.

Since Antonio Sablan did not have the legal title to the lot, the justices ruled that he was not a successor in interest.

Should the trial court find that the assignment was fraudulent, this pronouncement would adjudicate the legal rights of the Bensons and Mitchell, the justices said.

# NMHC mulls paying utility allowance directly to CUC

## »Proposed policy would make NMHC first housing agency to implement such a plan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Should the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. decide to pay the utility allowance of tenants directly to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., it will be the first public housing agency to implement such a policy, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Hawaii Field Office.

"By talking to our HUD Field Office in Hawaii, they said that it is our discretion to do that. We will be the first public housing agency to actually do that," Zerlyn Taimanao, NMHC Program and Housing Division manager, told board members during a meeting in December.

Taimanao said yesterday that public housing agencies give their tenants their utility allowance and hold them responsible for paying their bills.

In the case of Housing, Taimanao said they release the utility allowance check, which is calculated depending on the unit size of each tenant, every fifth of the month.

According to Taimanao, their HUD field office representative also told them that they "would possibly have to hire additional staff" if Housing decides to implement this policy.

"We have to keep in mind that the tenant is entitled to the full amount of the utility allowance," added Taimanao.

The matter of paying CUC directly has been raised in several Housing board meetings to resolve delinquent utility accounts among tenants.

"We're trying to curb the present tendency of delinquent accounts when they're already receiving a subsidy to help them in their livelihood. We're trying to take that extra step to help them with this responsibility," said board member Tom Glenn Quitugua.

Board chair Marcie Tomokane noted that the only way to address the issue "is to make the payment directly to CUC."

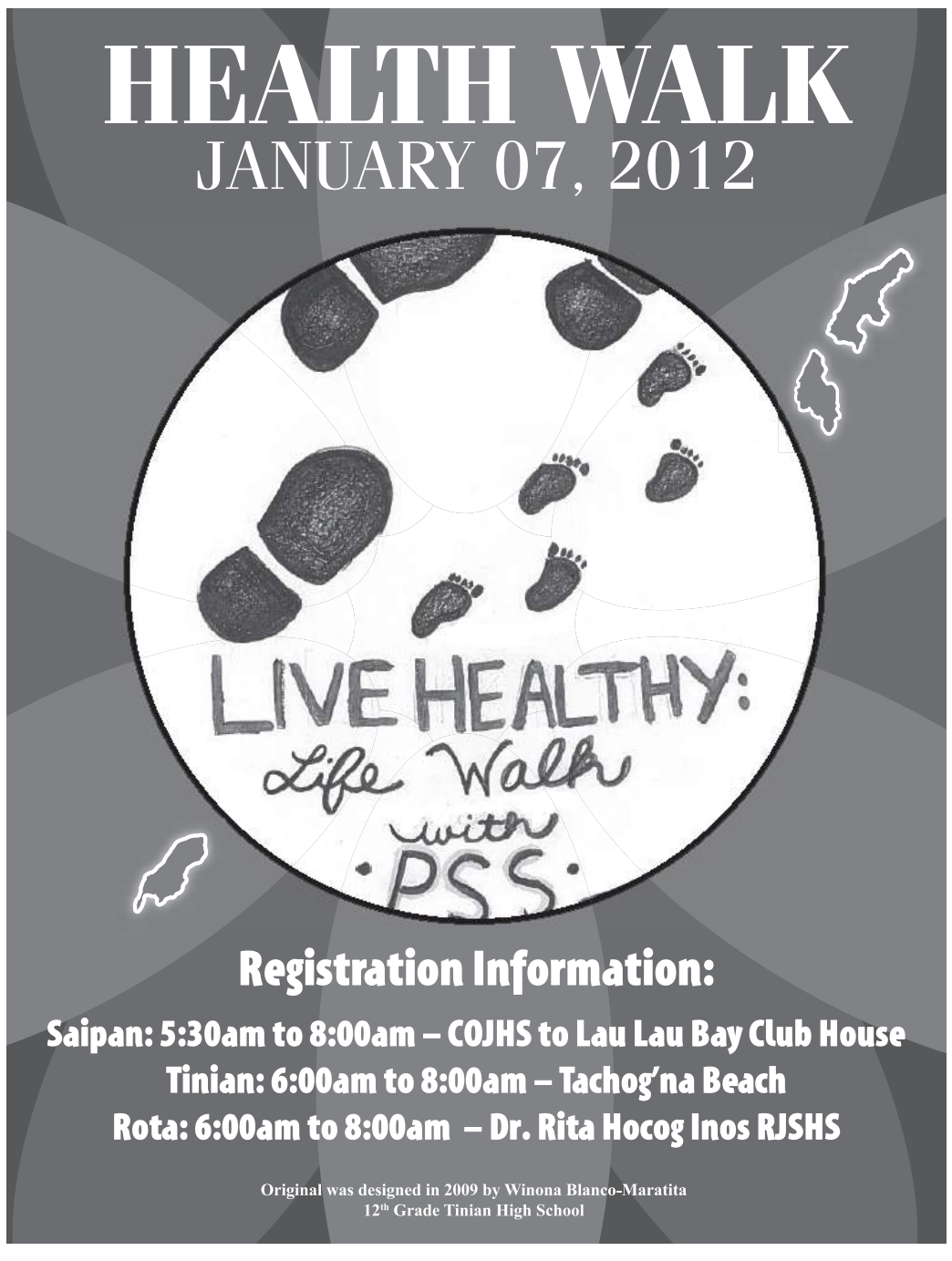
But Taimanao also reported to the board what the HUD Field Office representative pointed out about this prospective measure.

"She advised that although this was a great way to ensure that the utility allowance is used solely for utility, we should hold our tenant accountable to pay for their own bills," said Taimanao.

Given that Housing has no accountability measures to see if utility allowance checks are spent on utilities, Quitugua proposed that tenants should be required to bring in their utility receipts. "That's where we can correct the problem. Just nip it in the bud now."

Taimanao emphasized that tenants go to Housing annually for their re-certification and their caseworker in-charge reminds them about their responsibility to maintain utilities in their units as required by their contracts. "Should you get disconnected or not have that in your unit, you may be subject for termination."

Taimanao said she is still verifying with HUD the "inner workings" involved in this proposed policy.


HEALTH WALK
JANUARY 07, 2012
LIVE HEALTHY:
Life Walk
with
PSS
Registration Information:
Saipan: 5:30am to 8:00am – COJHS to Lau Lau Bay Club House
Tinian: 6:00am to 8:00am – Tachog'na Beach
Rota: 6:00am to 8:00am – Dr. Rita Hocog Inos RJSHS
Original was designed in 2009 by Winona Blanco-Maratita
12th Grade Tinian High School

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**ITB12-DLNR/SWCD-033**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JANUARY 19, 2012 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

**"GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES OF THE KAGMAN WATERSHED PROJECT – WATERWAY D AND SEDIMENT BASIN 2 (KWP) FOR THE DEPT. OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND THE APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED

/S/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
ACTING SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING**
**for**
**Mission Connection Ministry**

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for a Conditional Use permit. The Mission Connection Ministry is proposing to operate a Church on lots 003 H 23 and 003 H 28 in Susupe. This area is located behind Music And store on Beach Road and is zoned as Village Residential.

**Date:** **January 11, 2012**
**Time:** **5:00 pm**
**Place:** **Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan**

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, January 10, 2012. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp , via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

*/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman*

# Free computer classes back at public library

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Start the New Year right by learning something new at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, which will be offering free computer classes on Saturdays once again.

Roy Rechebei, the library's Information Technology Center coordinator, said these classes offer insight into the latest in software and hardware technologies.

"With a practical approach in learning computers, the ITC will also offer online resources in continuing and improving computer and Internet usage," said Rechebei.

■ Beginning Computing is scheduled from 10am to 11am and involves computer terminology; desktop, keyboard and mouse usage, Internet terminology; Internet browsing; Internet safety; file management and formats; and computer consumer awareness.

■ Office Applications (Word Processing) is from 11am to noon and involves Word processing terminology, file formats, layouts, keyboard and mouse efficiency, task management and exchange of documents in an office environment, and software resources.

■ Office Applications (Excel, Spreadsheet) is from 1pm to 2pm and involves spreadsheet terminology, file formats, planning and developing task specific documents, keyboard mouse efficiency, task management and exchange of documents in an office environment, and software resources.

■ Office Applications (PowerPoint, Presentation) is from 2pm to 3pm and involves presentation terminology, file formats, planning and developing task specific documents, keyboard mouse efficiency, task management and exchange of documents in an office environment, and software resources.

All classes are five sessions long and registered participants need to attend all classes to complete each course. Twelve slots are available per class and each one is on a first-come, first-served basis.

"If we don't meet the minimum number of participants, then we will reschedule that group," Rechebei said.

He said the computer classes they offered last year were a success, with some classes overbooked at certain times as they had to deal with reduced hours for the library.

Rechebei noted that interested individuals must be able to read and speak English, given the language barrier they encountered during last year's classes.

He also noted that they are using Linux Ubuntu instead of Microsoft Windows.

"We use Linux Ubuntu, an open-source operating system, which basically means it's free. What we teach on this operating system is applicable to any other operating system. The menus are very similar, just different locations. But everything is pretty much the same. If you learn on this, you can pretty much learn on anything," Rechebei told *Saipan Tribune*.

Rechebei encouraged the public to take advantage of their Saturday computer classes. "It's a good opportunity because it's free."

To register, visit JKPL in Susupe, log into www.cnmilibrary.com or call 235-7315 or 7322 for more information.

**HOLIDAY CHEER** CLARISSA V. DAVID

Aging Center clients Christiana Michael and Paola Mereb dance with members of the Umang Glee Club during their presentation last Thursday. This is the fourth holiday visit of the group from Koblerville Elementary School with the *man'amko*.

## Cool Roof Rebate Program updates vendors' list

The CNMI Department of Public Works' Division of Energy Office is informing all CNMI Residential Cool Roof Rebate Program applicants of the following updated approved participating vendor list:

| VENDOR | LOCATION | TELEPHONE / FAX | EMAIL |
|---|---|---|---|
| AMPAC, Ltd. | Fina Sisu | 287-5005 | fred@ampacspn.com |
| Big Bell, Inc. | Koblerville | 288-6108 / 288-2355 | bigbell@pticom.com |
| J.A.M. Construction Co. | San Vicente | 234-8805 | jov_mallari@yahoo.com |
| Konstrak Builders | San Jose | 235-1432 | cisneromes_90@yahoo.com |
| LR Construction | Lower Base | 285-5646 | ldreyes@pticom.com |
| Marianas Management Corporation | Susupe | 235-8973,80/235-7373 | mmc@saipan.com |
| NORTHPAC Corporation | San Vicente | 235-7171/235-7373 | migscruzjr@hotmail.com |
| RPCF, Inc. | Chalan Laulau | 234-9127 | brian@pticom.com |
| YMA Human Resource CNMI Corp. | San Jose | 235-5091/234-7960 | solidbuilders@pticom.com |

Homeowners who have submitted completed applications have the option of soliciting additional price proposals from these approved vendor list and are hereby advised that this may delay processing rebate voucher.

For more information, contact 664-4486/7/9/90 or visit their website at www.cnmienergy.com.

Funding opportunities for the project is made possible from an American Recovery & Reinvestment Act grant through the U.S. Department of Energy - Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program. ***(DPW)***

## Mañagaha, 4 Tinian beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged Mañagaha Beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

On Tinian, DEQ has also red-flagged four beaches—the Unai Masalok Beach, Unai Babui Beach, Unai Dangkolo Beach, and Unai Chulu Beach—and a similar directive applies not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these sites for the next 48 hours until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 12 locations on Saipan and 12 locations on Tinian this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Chamber Installation Dinner on Jan. 21

The 2012 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Officers and Directors Installation Dinner will be held this Jan. 21, 2012, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall. Jerry Tan, president of Tan Holdings, will be this year's keynote speaker. The Chamber will also announce its 2011 Businessperson of the Year award recipient. SCC will continue with its Installation Dinner tradition and hold a silent auction to raise funds for the Scholarship Awards Program.

The deadline for nominations for Businessperson of the Year Award has been extended to Jan. 9, 2012.

Reservations for the $50-per-head dinner are being accepted. Reserve seating for the event by calling the Saipan Chamber of Commerce offices at 233-7150/7152, or send an email to coordinator@saipanchamber.com. ***(SCC)***

### First aid/CPR/AED training dates

■ Adult CPR/AED: Jan. 11, Wednesday, 6pm-9pm

■ First Aid: Jan. 12, Thursday, 6pm-9pm

■ Adult CPR/AED: Jan. 14, Saturday, 8am-11am

■ First Aid: Jan. 14, Saturday, 1pm-4pm

■ Adult First Aid/CPR/AED: Jan. 21, Saturday, 8am-1pm

■ Adult CPR/AED, Jan. 24, Tuesday, 6pm-9pm

■ First Aid: Jan. 25, Wednesday, 6pm-9pm

Contact the American Red Cross-Northern Mariana Islands Chapter at 234-3459 to register. To learn more, visit www.redcross.org/training. ***(ARC)***

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### Jan. 5, 1999

**US insists on steering CNMI rudder on labor**

President Bill Clinton has said the existing situation in the Northern Marianas does not guarantee protection of workers' rights provided under federal laws and pressed local officials to establish policies that will address the problem. The US leader strongly proposed to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio that his administration agrees with the National Labor Relations Board on the commonwealth's treatment of collective bargaining agreements, employees covered by the NLRB-filed charges and reinstatement remedies in settlements approved by the federal agency and ordered by courts. Clinton underscored the need to establish clear policies along this line because "the current situation does not ensure adequate protection of workers' rights under federal law."

**MHS gym still searches for funding**

The Marianas High School gymnasium may accommodate the graduation of batch '99 in June provided the Public School System will secure the $32 million funding as scheduled in early part of this year. According to PSS architect Christopher Fryling, funding for the second phase construction of the gymnasium will come from the $32 million raised from the CIP money and the $16 million loan. Based on earlier reports, the second phase will need around $700,000 to finish the interior part of the gymnasium. Fryling said PSS will secure its CIP funding by February, but the $16 million loan as matching money is still awaiting final nod. Representatives from the California State Financing Corp. were scheduled to finalize the deal since October last year.

### Jan. 5, 2001

**House ponders changes to labor bill**

The House Commerce and Tourism Committee is preparing amendments to legislation that is patterned after the U.S. Fair Labor Standards Act before regular sessions resume by the end of this month. This will be one of key priority measures which the leadership in the lower house is expected to push, according to House Floor Leader Oscar M. Babauta. The committee met the other day to discuss changes to the bill sponsored by House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial who has earlier instructed them to hasten review of the proposal. Comparisons will be made with existing labor laws as well as administrative regulations prior to drawing up a new draft of HB 12-134, said Babauta.

**MPLT eyed to fund scholarship**

The government may tap funds from Marianas Public Land Trust to finance a proposed new scholarship program that will cater to indigenous people trained to work in the private sector. Sen. Richardo S. Atalig, chair of the Senate education committee that is drafting the legislation, has disclosed provisions of the proposal, but said final details are still forthcoming. "It's going to be a loan system, not just a grant given to you and that's it. It's not going to be like in the past," he told in an interview. The committee hopes to present the plan by this month once the review of all the different pending bills and existing laws tackling the scholarship program is complete.

### Jan. 5, 2003

**Tighter seaport security coming**

Commonwealth Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas yesterday disclosed that the 300-foot security rule at the seaport will be implemented as soon as the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Coast Guard set the date for its enforcement. Salas pointed out that enforcement of the security rule will automatically follow the federal agencies' issuance of a specific date, regardless of the ongoing discussion with the Marianas Public Lands Authority for additional public land at the Port of Saipan. He added that the discussion on the 300-foot security rule at all U.S. seaports included additional funding needed for the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002, which was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives in November 2002.

**MPLA outlines procedures on land compensation payments**

To ensure fast processing of claims, the Marianas Public Lands Authority called on claimants to complete their documentation based on the newly approved rules and regulations on land compensation claims. The rules, among others, require that all private property acquired by the Commonwealth must be certified, declared or determined for acquisition by the Governor. This certification must include boundary surveys and/or legal description, and identification of encumbrances and disputes, if any.

# Study highlights stressed state of NMI's coral reef fisheries

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The need to improve the CNMI's understanding and management of its coral reef fisheries was highlighted in a recently published scientific study that showed troubling findings about the Commonwealth in comparison to other jurisdictions in Micronesia.

"Commercial Coral-Reef Fisheries Across Micronesia: A Need for Improving Management" was a study conducted in 2009 to 2010 and spearheaded by Dr. Peter Houk, chief biologist of Pacific Marine Resources Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving scientific research and monitoring across Micronesia for use in sound resource management planning.

"To our knowledge, this is the only study of its kind in the Western Pacific that's finally published and peer-reviewed," Houk said Tuesday.

Houk said the study, a copy of which is available on the PMRI website, www.pacmares.com, focused mainly on spear fishing and was published in *Coral Reefs*, a global journal dedicated to studying coral reef ecosystems.

Based on the study, the CNMI consistently had the smallest reported capture sizes and/or reduced catch rates for larger, slow-growing species. Houk said the size of a fish that one catches has an "exponential relationship" with the fish's ability to reproduce more.

He explained that the size of a fish is also directly proportional to its function in coral reefs. "The size of the fish…is directly proportional to its ability to clean. That has implications for how healthy our reefs are."

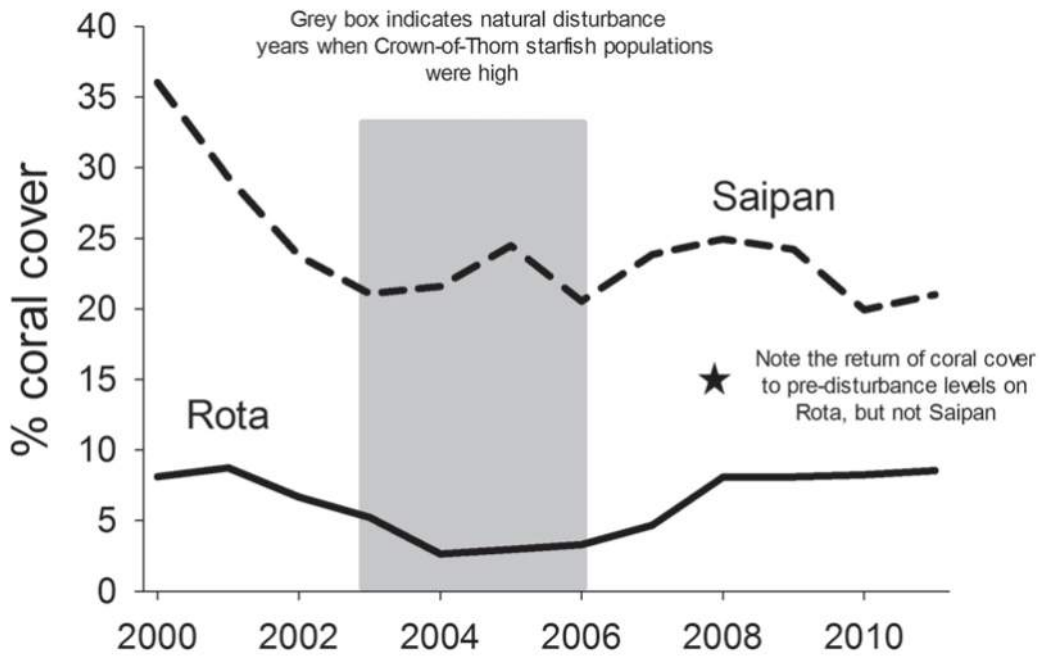
The study, Houk said, also revealed that the trophic composition of the CNMI's catch has fewer large, longer-lived predator fish but is abundant in plankton- and algae-eating fish. According to Houk, composition is directly related to fishing pressure and the result indicates that the fishing community in the Commonwealth is fishing harder on its resources.

Another conclusion is that local fishermen need a favorable environment to generate a good catch. "By favorable environment, I mean a low moon so it's dark at night and you can do your fishing all night long, and low waves so you can get to the good spots," said Houk, noting that environmentally-dependent catch success is also a sign of unsustainable fishery.

What's most striking among their findings, Houk pointed out, is that the data showed that the composition of the catch in the CNMI, where it's illegal to fish using a scuba tank, has a "tight relationship" with the scuba-derived catches in Guam where it's permitted.

PETER HOUK

The CNMI's market sales were dominated by parrotfish, which have an influential role in structuring the coral-reef ecosystem.




Decadal trends in live coral cover on Saipan and Rota. Note that while natural environments (i.e., geology) dictate that coral growth is more favorable on Saipan, recovery from natural disturbances was faster on Rota.

"This is an indication that a lot of the fish coming into the CNMI market at the time the study was done, the bulk of the fish were very likely to have been coming in from illegal scuba operations," Houk said.

He noted that the study's findings altogether validate the diminishing fishery resources in the CNMI, which would significantly impact not just the reef's health but also the islands' and personal livelihoods.

Houk called for the need to fish and buy fish responsibly, given that reef fish stocks are not as endless as they appear to be.

"It appears endless but that's not the case of what's going on. Fish are getting harder to catch, they're getting smaller in size, and you have to spend a longer time in order to catch them. I want the public to understand that there's a trend behind it," he emphasized.

With the release of the study, Houk expressed hope that the government and non-profit organizations like PMRI will have a "true collaboration" by improving their relationships through open dialogues, and collecting and analyzing data together to work on having sustainable fisheries in the Commonwealth. "The goal is to get management decisions based on science—real facts—to make better changes."

## US-Palau relationship affirmed in 2012

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—The Consolidated Appropriations Act 2012, signed into law by President Obama on Dec. 23, 2011, includes continued funding for the Republic of Palau. Palau will receive $13,147,000 in fiscal year 2012 for its government operations.

Anthony M. Babauta, Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs, said the appropriation demonstrates the continuing commitment of the United States to Palau under the Compact of Free Association.

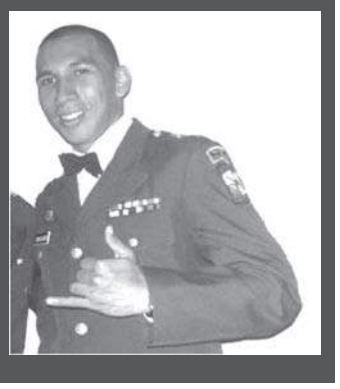
"Although we would prefer that Congress enact S 343 approving the results of the 15-year Compact review, the commitment of the U.S. government to the Republic of Palau is firm. The 2012 appropriation continues financial assistance to Palau at the same level it received in 2009, the last year of funding under our first agreement."

Babauta added that consistent with the provisions of the 1994 Compact of Free Association, Palau has exercised its sovereignty in accordance with the principles of democracy and in a firm alliance with the United States.

U.S. Ambassador to Palau Helen Reed-Rowe said, "Palau is a strong ally and we welcome this good news." ***(DOI)***

**GO MARINE!**
PFC Dustin Jon Pangelinan, a graduate of Kagman High School Class of 2011, shown here with Josie Kaipat, graduated from the San Diego Marine Corps on Dec. 16, 2011. Of the 406 Marines, Pangelinan graduated among the top 6 honor men. Go RCC!
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT**
Happy 21st birthday Wes Tomokane, who is celebrating his birthday today. Enjoy your special day! We love and miss you so much! Greetings come from Esah Tomokane and the family from Bamberg, Germany.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## NMC hosts spring student orientations on Jan. 6, 12

The Northern Marianas College will be hosting student orientations for the upcoming spring 2012 semester on Friday, Jan. 6, and on Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012.

The first orientation on Jan. 6 is for all international NMC students. There will be two sessions: 9:30am to 12pm and 1:30pm to 4pm at the NMC Student Center in Building J. Students may attend either session.

During the event, application procedures for international NMC students will be discussed including immigration matters for F type student visa holders, academic requirements, as well as the spring 2012 registration process.

The next student orientation for all new and returning NMC students will be hosted on Jan. 12. There will be two sessions: 9am to 12pm and 4pm to 7pm at the NMC Library in Building O. Students may attend either session.

The orientations will also inform students about the various programs, services, and resources available at the college. It will feature representatives from the different programs and offices of the Student Services division, such as Counseling and Disability Support, Career Services, Financial Aid. Information about the registration process for the spring 2012 semester will also be shared.

Registration for the upcoming spring 2012 semester will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2012. Class schedules, placement test schedules, the academic calendar, and other important information are currently available online at www.nmcnet.edu.

For more information about the student orientations, contact the NMC Counseling Programs and Services Office at 234-5498 Ext. 1346, or contact NMC international counselor Ni Deleon Guererro at 234-5498 Ext. 1343. ***(NMC)***

## DEQ cleanup brigade targets Lao Lao Bay

The Division of Environmental Quality's cleanup brigade will be at it again, picking up trash at Lao Lao Bay, Saipan this Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012, starting at 8am.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, meet with the other volunteers at the new parking lot near the picnic area (also known as South Laolao Bay). Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade T-shirt.

Last month, at the Dec. 17 cleanup at Old Man by the Sea was very successful with over 80 volunteers participating. Thanks to Hopwood's My Wave Club, MHS students, NMC's Upward Bound Program, CUC and other volunteers, some 860 lbs of trash was removed from the beach and properly disposed of. DEQ thanks D&Q for its support in providing refreshments.

DEQ is looking forward to a repeat of its success at Lao Lao Bay this Saturday, so join DEQ's cleanup brigade and "Pick It Up!"

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(DEQ)***

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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JEFF KOTERBA'S PREDICTIONS 2012
APPLE COMPUTERS WILL ANNOUNCE ITS GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT YET... THE CREATION OF HUMAN LIFE...
APPLE MADE ME. THEREFORE I AM.
ALTHOUGH NO LONGER IN POWER, FIDEL CASTRO WILL ADMIT TO BARBARA WALTERS THAT HE FEELS LONELY AS A MEMBER OF THE 'BAD HAIR TYRANTS' CLUB...
JOINING FORCES WITH REALITY TV, A 15-YEAR-OLD FROM TREYNOR, IOWA, WILL ANNOUNCE HER CANDIDACY FOR U.S. PRESIDENT...
FOR THE NEXT 20 YEARS, MY LIFE WILL BE AN OPEN BOOK... NO SKELETONS IN MY CLOSET!
VOTE LINDSAY 2032

# Even despots don't live forever

**By DOYLE MCMANUS**
Los Angeles Times

*Doyle McManus is a columnist for* The Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.*

It was a bad year for the villains of the world.

Three of the biggest bad guys met their ends: Osama bin Laden, killed by U.S. commandos who stormed his villa in Pakistan in May; Moammar Gadhafi, killed by Libyan insurgents who captured him (with the help of a NATO airstrike) in October; and Kim Jong Il, the ruler of North Korea, who died Dec. 17, reportedly of a heart attack.

Bin Laden was the most important. Americans remember him, of course, as the architect of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11. But his larger achievement was in organizing al-Qaida, a multinational movement whose purpose was to focus its violence not on local issues—plenty of terrorist groups do that—but on the distant United States. That innovation will guarantee him a place in history. "It is fair to say," former CIA analyst Michael Scheuer wrote in his biography of bin Laden, "that he has had a greater impact on how Americans view their society, government and security than any other individual in the past 50 years."

But by the time the Navy caught up with bin Laden, relentless U.S. attacks had reduced the "core" of al-Qaida to only a few high-value targets, most of them in hiding. True, the organization had atomized successfully into franchise operations in Yemen, Somalia and North Africa, but the local groups quickly got caught up in local politics and lost their focus on attacks against the United States. That caused distress to the founder, who sent letters urging his affiliates to get back to killing Americans. With bin Laden gone, al-Qaida isn't over, but it's a much smaller threat to us now.

The second of the three despots who left us in 2011—Gadhafi—was known by the end of his career more for his flamboyantly theatrical uniforms and his onetime crush on Condoleezza Rice than for being a global threat. But Gadhafi was once one of the world's top terrorists, instigator of the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 that killed 270. And he ruled his fellow Libyans with an arbitrary brutality exceeded by few others.

The dictator met his end because of a bigger trend, the wave of democratic enthusiasm sweeping the Arab world. Libyans saw autocrats fall in two neighboring countries, Egypt and Tunisia, and decided they could change their circumstances too. Even with considerable help from NATO, it took the rebels six months to take the capital of Tripoli, and two more to capture Gadhafi. His end was ugly and ignominious; he appears to have been tortured and shot by the insurgents who found him.

Kim Jong Il, by contrast, died without violence at the end of a 16-year reign over the world's last hermetically sealed communist dictatorship, a regime that ruined its own economy but protected itself with nuclear weapons and an alliance with neighboring China.

By the narrowest standard of authoritarian regimes, self-preservation, Kim's tenure was a success. He passed power on to his 28-year-old son, Kim Jong Un, who will rule together with his aunt, his uncle and a collection of wizened generals.

But the stability may be illusory. The North Korean dynasty's first leader, Kim Il Sung, was proclaimed "Great Leader," and Kim Jong Il was known as "Dear Leader." But young Kim Jong Un has been named only the "Great Successor"—a title that, by comparison,

*See DESPOTS on Next Page*

# The flagrance of war

**By JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School in Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.*

The new Zhang Yimou (*Home Alone, Hero*) movie *The Flowers of War* in English, *13 Women of Nanjing* in Chinese, had limited release late December in select theaters in New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

I ask students to sing English songs, repeat dialogues, radio and TV broadcasts, read out loud billboard signs and ad slogans, view English movies, so it was that two of my students over the holidays informed me they "were going to watch an English movie as advised, and would I care to join them."

Yimou's movie is set in Nanjing after the Battle of Shanghai, where about two sets of ladies—convent girls and red light district Chinese geishas—sought refuge in a cathedral with a large red cross sign on the church lawn to signify protection. Safety was illusory, the movie established early. The resident priest had already been shot and an American mortician came to prepare the body for burial. He was shown a huge crater, a strategic bomb got to the Father before he could. His blessedness had already been sent up to glory in small pieces, hit while lying outdoors in an un-stately manner coz' the cook could not countenance the Padre's decaying fumes.

Zhang Yimou is not known for cutting corners on laughter and tears so the movie hammered realism with a vengeance—brutality, pathos, and anxiety all coming through in luxuriant sounds and sights.

The story is set in what is referred to as the "Rape of Nanjing," a media title more than a historical one. Not unlike Pearl Harbor's infamy, the "rape" is under intense review. The Nanjing occupation during the Second Sino-Japanese War is a more accurate description, indicating a first one, and that Sino-Japanese relations was never cozy.

The latter Qing dynasty ceded Formosa (aka Taiwan) to Japan, and dissident Sun Yatsen found refuge under the Sakura blossoms even after the Xinhai (1911) Revolution. When the Republic was finally declared, feudal lords warred and the European powers nibbled toward Chang Jiang's core. Japan marched as Asia's savior and acted in the same way as France, Italy, England, the Germans, and the Dutch did in Africa—be colonial. Manchuria was not technically part of China so Japan started immigrating.

The word "wo kou," a brigand, pirate, or a burglar, is used to refer to the Japanese, even to today's businessman and visitor. Before Nanjing, the Battle of Shanghai '37 was vicious, and Tokyo noted that its troops' morale was low and stress high. Chinese troops used scorch earth tactics on Nanjing to deny resources to invaders and by the time Japan arrived, the city and the surrounding forests had been deliberately torched. The "massacre" of Nanjing, an occupation of a tired but triumphant army over left behind civilians, ensued. That's the setting of Yimou's movie.

Critics' response zeroes in on the alleged failure of Yimou to strongly and unequivocally condemn the Japanese "rape" of what was then China's capital city. That, and the observation that the movie was fuller on the glitz and schmaltz than on the real and authentic. The movie is judged severely on what the movie fails to portray. After a strong dose of Manichean dualism, we shouted, "humbug." Critics are not out to critique what they see in the movie, but to impose today's moralism on a condemned past event.

PolySci students know that GovJapan is silent on claims about its soldiers' behavior during WWII other than concede that they behaved the same way other combatants behave in the flagrance of war. Comparison to Hitler's Holocaust policy is misplaced. The historical evidence that Japan earlier refused to deport fleeing Jews in Japan, Korea, and China from Russia is clear, and it left the League of Nations on record for the body's refusal to declare equality of races. Asian anti-colonial forces sided with Japan. Still, not unlike their imperial cousins, the *samurai* behaved atrociously under duress.

The matter of comfort women, despicable as that appears to contemporary eyes, as raised these days by Korea, the Philippines, and China to claim war reparations, recalls the traditions of the geisha in Nippon, *Kisaeng* in Hankook, *Yi Ji* in Zhongguo, and Manila's taxi dancers, as being established and accepted. The movie's depiction of ladies of the night who take the place of convent girls when the latter were commanded to appear at an anniversary celebration where their fate among the soldiers was unmistakable, is perhaps the critics' bone of contention. It makes the Yi Ji of Nanjing look too much like the GI version of Susie Wong of Wan Chai. Or our convivial R&R'ing star-and-stripes tars' muscle kneaders of Saipan!

The atrocities of war of any kind inflicted on others are indefensible, more so on those we inflict on ourselves, as our own veterans from Afghanistan and Iraq are finding out, and we ignored in Indochina. Actually, we found the movie to be heavily moralistic on a misplaced sharp dichotomy between the young maidens and the ladies of the night. Yimou did not mince a frame to show the physical brutality of combat in slow motion and vivid colors, but he was just as heavy handed in his stereotypical dualism of the flighty and fancy girls of the saloons from the crisp and classy linen'd choristers from the convent.

It wasn't the cold that drew our tears. It was the depiction of the conduct of war, its irrationality and the yin-yang ambiguity of people's choices that was too realistic for comfort. If we have any complaints, it was that Yimou took to much time, for while we did not mind the tear ducts flowing, we could not hold the bladder that long, before going!

**EDITORIAL POLICY** Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Great people

**By RIK VILLEGAS**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Rik coaches businesses to develop consistently profitable businesses that operate without them. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at http://rikv.blogspot.com.*

I recently went to a laboratory to have my blood and urine analyzed as part of my regular health check up. I was told by the physician to go to the location that I had been to several times in the past, but when I arrived on the appointed day, the place was empty inside and a paper was taped to the window stating that the company had moved to the second floor of a larger and nicer building.

I wondered how many other individuals made the wasted trip. That was one strike against the company for not informing the medical clinics and physicians about their move. I'll spare the name of the business, even though they enjoy a virtual monopoly on the island.

When I arrived at the new location, I went to the second floor and wandered around for a few minutes looking for a sign with the name of the company. On my second trip around I noticed some people sitting in a large room, so I looked at another piece of regular paper taped to the door with their name on it. Strike two for cheap signs and lack of professionalism. I have some hope that the next interaction will be positive after I read their slogan: "Great Science. Great People."

The chairs were lined up like a workshop with a TV screen in the front, but it was turned off. No one was there to greet me, nor were there signs to say what to do. I walked over to a desk and saw a clipboard with a few names on it, and asked one of the individuals waiting if we were supposed to sign in. She said "yes," so I signed in and sat down and waited for a few minutes until a gentleman called my name.

Okay, here was one of the "great people" I was going to be dealing with, but there was no greeting, he only asked for my insurance card, and then told me to sign a paper that had some wording as part of their contract. I started reading it and he seemed annoyed that I was actually reading something before signing it. I was then told to have a seat while he processed my paperwork.

A few more minutes go by and then I hear "Come with me," and the individual gets up and walks off. I look up and there are a couple of people seated with me, and I'm not sure if it was for me, so I wait until he appears at the doorway and tells me again to come.

I'm now seated and my blood is taken, then I'm told he needs some "pee-pee." Luckily, I understand his less-than-scientific terminology, having raised several children and having used the same word often when they were babies. However, each interaction I'm having with the "great people" of this company, is making me question the "great science" they're going to use to analyze my bodily fluids.

I'm ready to leave at this point, but they've already got my blood, so I might as well leave my pee-pee. The restroom is clean, but then I notice that there is no trash receptacle in the room. I'm pretty creative, so I make do and when I go to wash my hands there is no soap in the container. Okay, I'm really losing confidence in this place as a professional facility.

When I finally leave the restroom with my pee-pee container in hand, I see that they've conveniently placed the trash can on the outside of the door. I point out to the individual that there is no trash receptacle in the bathroom, and he just shrugs and tells me to place my sample on a shelf with other samples. I checked to make sure my name is spelled correctly—at this point they have just struck out and I have lost all confidence in their great people, and their great science is waning in my mind.

As a business person, my thoughts quickly move to see what would need to happen to compete successfully against this company and knock it off its monopolistic pedestal. The equipment can be purchased, and the science part can be hired out or outsourced. The great people may be more difficult to find, but they can be trained. With great customer service, communication, and strong relationships built with the local medical clinics, there would be another option for patients to have their lab work done.

Would a medical clinic rather send their patients with confidence to a lab that takes care of their people vs. the cattle car of an operation that fronts itself as a laboratory? I think so.

I once had a wise business person jokingly tell me that the reason he was so successful was because he's no worse than the competition. In reality, he made sure his business had great service, great products, and great people to deliver them. In a down economy that we're experience, it is risky to treat people as just another number, and essential to make them a valued customer.

## DESPOTS

*From Page 10*

feels a little tentative.

Kim Jong Il's death was peaceful, but it was a warning its own way: Even the best-managed tyranny can't escape the limits of biology. The North Korean regime won't last forever, any more than its leader could.

Are there any villains left to loathe or fear? Plenty, alas. Kim Jong Un and his relatives don't look like much of an improvement on Kim Jong Il. Syria is still ruled by Bashar Assad, although his regime is weakening by the day. Sudan's Omar Hassan Ahmed Bashir has waged war against much of his own country. Iran's Ali Khamenei has presided over merciless repression against his nation's democratic movement. And Russia's Vladimir Putin appears bent on returning his country to a modernized version of its bad old days.

But they read the obituaries too. They know that they won't be around forever, and that if they play their cards badly, their ends could be unpleasant. In 2012, the world's tyrants and dictators are sleeping a little less comfortably than they did a year ago. And that, in its own way, is good news.

## Letters to the Editor

# Build a lighthouse and they will come

Happy New Year, leaders of our great Commonwealth: The year 2011 was certainly not what a lot of people had hoped for and expected to see—some creative and innovative ideas or plans in the works. Instead, we continue to see the lack of effort and not by virtue of who does and who doesn't deliver their respective services. As elected leaders of the entire Commonwealth, however, you must plan and decide what's there at the horizon.

But it's all about each individual taking that initiative in looking at the bright side that serves its purpose in every aspect of any subject matter and idea and the spectacle of bringing the dark into light. Therefore, with that in mind, I personally would like to bring and share my idea and proposal. And I'm sure without a doubt that the people of the Commonwealth will support the idea.

This may not be most favorable to you at this present stage of our ailing economy for lack of funding, but perhaps for any federal staff who may be reading this article, the federal government who has now declared the island of Maug, the last part of the Northern Island chain, as a Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, and this idea may give us what may be very beneficial to all of us.

It is after all, the responsibility of our government and, with the collaborative and cooperative efforts of both governments with the idea and the funding of its structural design, this can and will certainly make it all possible. And who would think that this not possible? This certainly can be done. This landmark tower will serve both geographical and navigational purposes, both from the air and from the sea.

Yes, I am talking about a lighthouse. This is a highly recommended and an essential and vital part of air and sea travel. This must be built for its very essential purpose and worth every penny spent. This is highly needed and should be prioritized in any shape or form and I highly recommend it and this will become an important part of our island chain and this will also greatly foster a greater understanding of our geographical location and teach the international community about the great significance and the importance of our Marine National Monument and island chain.

In the end, the lighthouse will forever stand as a symbol of an historical landmark and as an indicator for all ships and airplanes entering or exiting the Northern Marianas, including the Marianas Trench, the deepest ocean in the world and that the lighthouse will bring light into the dark for everyone to see, and this symbol is something we should all be grateful and thankful for.

And so I hope one day soon that when we're flying back from any of our trip at night from abroad, that we would be able to see the beacon light from the lighthouse, knowing that we are over our island chain and our National Monument and that we finally see what was there at the horizon and we're home finally at last.

**George Fleming Jr.**
*via e-mail*

# Suggestions for Retirement Fund

Allowing members to withdraw contributions started this fiasco. Another mistake was this Class I and Class II classification. If the Retirement Fund did not allow withdrawals and instead allowed us to loan against it, it would have still have a longer lifespan.

As for me I would rather calculate how to give back everyone their money and start anew. And for those retirees, I would loan them some money until the Fund recovers and at the same time let them pay back if they owe the Fund or just simply roll them over.

This I will do, should we start anew.

1. Absolutely no withdrawals.
2. Loaning against it should be allowed with very low interest.
3. An annual report should be mailed out to all members.
4. Years of contribution should be no less than 15 years and anything above it should be put for other uses such as medical and dental care benefits or any other important necessities for living.

5, Another incentive for members is to come up with a plan to choose, like Class I or Class II. For example, having dependent benefit for others who are not covered by the minimum plan. Also, allowing families to probate contributions for whoever is named on the will, should he/she pass away and not able to get his or her benefits.

Maybe someone out there has a better idea, but seriously the members of our Legislature need our help now and if we don't contribute to solve this problem then we are heading toward our doom. Talking about their failures is all we do but I challenge you all to come up with positive suggestions or ideas and let's see if they'll still fail us.

**Winnie Atalig,**
*San Jose, Tinian*

# Thank you

Thank you to everyone who supported the raffle fundraiser to raise money for my surgery last October. I was very touched and indeed humbled by all of the hard work put into making the fundraiser successful and by the generosity displayed by the people who purchased raffle tickets, especially during these tough economic times. It shows that despite tough times, there is still a lot of generosity to go around—indeed, it makes me proud to be a resident of the CNMI. A special thank you to BOMAT CNMI, Ltd. for your generous donation. To all my family and friends, and the people from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota that I do not personally know but who purchased raffle tickets and/or helped with the fundraiser —thank you so much, and I am forever in your debt. God bless you and happy New Year!

**Hedwig Hofschneider**
*Afetnas, Saipan*

# Island rant

I just want to air my concern about the delivery of Internet services (so called broadband). The northern part of Saipan such as As Matuis and perhaps others who are "actually" paying an amount that is supposedly equal to the delivery of services, yet *it is not happening*. People ought to complain about this, most especially those who *are not receiving* this so called fast connectivity. Don't pay what you're not getting. If they disconnect you take the service provider to court and let them prove that your connection is as good as what they claim it to be. They'll end up paying your attorney's fees too. If the service sucks, that doesn't mean you have to suffer. Ridiculous!

**Jack Taitano**
*Brooklyn, New York*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph with gusts to 25 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph with gusts to 25 mph. | Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. | Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. | Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. |
| ▲86° ▼76° | ▲85° ▼77° | ▲84° ▼77° | ▲84° ▼76° | ▲85° ▼76° |

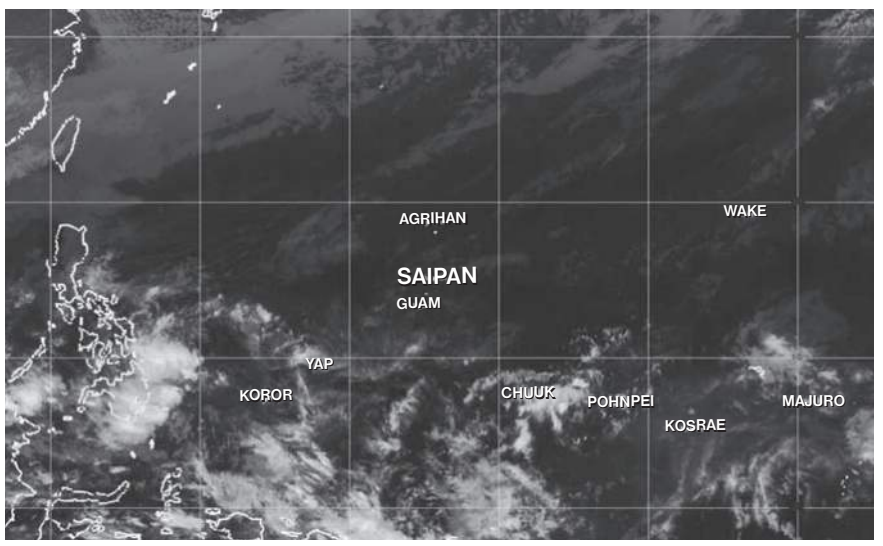
## Micronesia

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Mostly Sunny | ▲84 | ▼78 |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | ▲85 | ▼79 |
| Yap | Partly Cloudy | ▲87 | ▼78 |
| Chuuk | Showers | ▲85 | ▼79 |
| Pohnpei | Showers | ▲84 | ▼80 |
| Kosrae | Showers | ▲84 | ▼80 |
| Majuro | Showers | ▲84 | ▼79 |

## Around The Globe

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Showers | ▲71 | ▼64 |
| Beijing | Sunny | ▲36 | ▼14 |
| Hong Kong | Cloudy | ▲57 | ▼56 |
| Honolulu | Showers | ▲82 | ▼70 |
| London | Windy | ▲53 | ▼43 |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | ▲79 | ▼48 |
| Manila | Partly Cloudy | ▲83 | ▼77 |
| Melbourne | Partly Cloudy | ▲69 | ▼57 |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | ▲66 | ▼48 |
| New York | Partly Cloudy | ▲32 | ▼28 |
| Osaka | Mostly Sunny | ▲46 | ▼37 |
| Paris | Showers | ▲52 | ▼41 |
| Pusan | Sunny | ▲43 | ▼28 |
| Rome | Mostly Sunny | ▲60 | ▼45 |
| Salem | Windy | ▲58 | ▼46 |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | ▲66 | ▼48 |
| Seoul | Sunny | ▲31 | ▼20 |
| Tokyo | Sunny | ▲47 | ▼34 |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Cloudy | ▲37 | ▼31 |

## Yesterday's Satellite Image




**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2012**
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A diffuse shear line extends southwestward from east of Minami Tori Shima Island at 25N162E then passes over Anatahan to end near 13N143E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 120 miles northwest of this boundary. Another shear line west of the Marianas stretches southwestward from 17N141E to beyond 130E at 13N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough curves east-southeastward across 4N130E to end at EQ150E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found south of Koror south of a line from 4N131E to 5N136E and south of Chuuk south of a line from 4N146E to 4N151E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Chuuk between 5N and 9N from 150E to 157E and southeast of Majuro within 180 miles of 5N176E. A surface trough extends northward from 7N168E to 12N169E. Scattered showers are found northeast of Kwajalein between 9N and 14N from 167E to 172E.

## Tides

**Saipan Harbor**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6:13 AM | Today | High Tide: | 1.5 Feet |
| 10:42 AM | Today | Low Tide: | 1.2 Feet |
| 4:01 PM | Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |
| 11:44 PM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.1 Feet |

## Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:44 AM | 6:00 PM |
| Friday | 6:45 AM | 6:00 PM |
| Saturday | 6:45 AM | 6:01 PM |
| Sunday | 6:45 AM | 6:02 PM |
| Monday | 6:45 AM | 6:02 PM |

## Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 2:34 PM | 2:57 AM |
| Friday | 3:22 PM | 3:48 AM |
| Saturday | 4:13 PM | 4:40 AM |
| Sunday | 5:07 PM | 5:31 AM |
| Monday | 6:02 PM | 6:21 AM |

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

**PICTURES**

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**For pictures:**

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

**HOW TO SUBMIT**

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 6, 2011

| DEPARTURES | | | | ARRIVALS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)** | | | | **ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)** | | | |
| C05062 | 2:10am | 2:40am | 1, 5 | C05064 | 5:15am | 5:45am | 1, 5 |
| **SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)** | | | | **ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)** | | | |
| C05064 | 4:15am | 4:50am | 1, 5 | C05062 | 3:10am | 3:45am | 1, 5 |
| **SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)** | | | | **GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| C05070 | 4:15am | 5:45am | 1, 5 via ROP | C05062 | 2:10am | 3:45am | 1, 5 via ROP |
| C05070 | 4:35am | 5:25am | 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 | C05069 | 2:45am | 3:35am | 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| C05068 | 8:25am | 9:15am | Daily | C05071 | 7:00am | 7:50am | Daily |
| C05074 | 12:10pm | 1:00pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 | C05073 | 10:05am | 10:55am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05076 | 3:10pm | 4:00pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 | C05075 | 1:40pm | 2:30pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05078 | 6:50pm | 7:40pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 | C05077 | 5:30pm | 6:20pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05078 | 7:00pm | 7:50pm | 3, 6 | C05077 | 5:40pm | 6:30pm | 3, 6 |
| C05072 | 9:55pm | 10:45pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 | C05079 | 8:35pm | 9:25pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05072 | 10:05pm | 10:55pm | 3, 6 | C05079 | 8:45pm | 9:35pm | 3, 6 |
| **SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)** | | | | **NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| DL287 | 6:00am | 8:35am | Daily | DL298 | 10:25am | 3:00pm | Daily |
| DL297 | 4:35pm | 7:20pm | Daily | DL288 | 8:40pm | 1:15am+1 | Daily |
| **SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)** | | | | **SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| OZ606 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 | OZ603 | 9:00am | 2:20pm | Daily |
| OZ606 | 2:40am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | OZ605 | 7:40pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 |
| OZ604 | 3:20pm | 7:10pm | Daily | OZ605 | 8:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| **SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)** | | | | **BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| OZ608 | 3:35am | 7:05am | 4, 7 | OZ607 | 9:00pm | 2:20am+1 | 3, 6 |
| **SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)** | | | | **GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| 3U8646 | 4:20am | 7:30am | 2, 6 | 3U8645 | 7:40pm | 3:00am+1 | 1, 5 |
| **SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)** | | | | **SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| 3U8648 | 6:10am | 8:40am | 1, 4, 5, 7 | 3U8647 | 10:40pm | 5:00am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| **SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)** | | | | **MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| OZ606/701 | 2:10am | 11:15am | 1 via ICN | OZ704/603 | 12:10am | 2:20pm | Daily via ICN |
| OZ606/701 | 2:40am | 11:15am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN | DL172/288 | 8:00am | 1:15am+1 | Daily via NRT |
| | | | | C0190/5077 | 10:55am | 6:30pm | 3, 6 via GUM |
| C05070/191 | 4:35am | 9:45am | 3, 6 via GUM | C0190/5079 | 10:55am | 9:35pm | 3, 6 via GUM |
| DL287/173 | 6:00am | 10:25pm | Daily via NRT | OZ702/605 | 12:30pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| C05068/183 | 8:25am | 9:25pm | 2, 5 via GUM | OZ702/605 | 12:30pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| C05068/183 | 8:25am | 9:40pm | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM | PR110/C05071 | 10:15pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 5, 7 via GUM |
| C05076/183 | 3:10pm | 9:25pm | 2, 5 via GUM | | | | |
| C05076/183 | 3:10pm | 9:40pm | 1, 4, 7 via GUM | C0192/5071 | 10:25pm | 7:50am+1 | 2, 5 via GUM-Palau |
| C05076/193 | 3:10pm | 11:00pm | 2, 5 via GUM-Palau | C0184/5071 | 11:10pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |
| OZ604/703 | 3:20pm | 11:00pm | Daily via ICN | C0184/5071 | 11:59pm | 7:50am+1 | 2, 5 via GUM |
| C05072/PR111 | 9:55pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 5, 7 via GUM | | | | |
| C05072/PR111 | 10:05pm | 7:50am+1 | 3, 6 via GUM | | | | |
| **SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)** | | | | **HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| OZ606/721 | 2:10am | 12:00pm | 1 via ICN | OZ724/603 | 12:30am | 2:20pm | Daily via ICN |
| OZ606/721 | 2:40am | 12:00pm | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN | OZ750/603 | 1:10am | 2:20pm | 1, 2, 4, 6 via ICN |
| C05076/179 | 3:10pm | 10:25pm | 1, 5 via GUM | OZ722/605 | 1:15pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ604/723 | 3:20pm | 10:30pm | Daily via ICN | OZ722/605 | 1:15pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| OZ604/749 | 3:20pm | 11:00pm | 1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN | C0180/5071 | 11:15pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 5 via GUM |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Guam–Rota** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:30 | 8:00 | Daily |
| **Rota–Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 8:20 | 8:50 | Daily |
| **Guam–Rota** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 17:00 | 17:30 | Daily |
| **Rota–Saipan** | 17:50 | 18:20 | Daily |
| **Saipan–Rota** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily |
| **Rota–Guam** | 10:20 | 10:45 | Daily |
| **Saipan–Rota** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 18:55 | 19:25 | Daily |
| **Rota–Guam** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 19:40 | 20:10 | Daily |
| **Saipan–Tinian** | | | |
| FRE 101 | 6:45 | 6:55 | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30 | 7:40 | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00 | 8:10 | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40 | 8:50 | Daily |
| FRE 109 | 9:10 | 9:20 | Daily |
| FRE 111 | 10:45 | 10:55 | Daily |

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| FRE 115 | 13:00 | 13:10 | Daily |
| FRE 117 | 14:30 | 14:40 | Daily |
| FRE 119 | 16:00 | 16:10 | Daily |
| FRE 121 | 16:40 | 16:50 | Daily |
| FRE 123 | 17:40 | 17:50 | Daily |
| FRE 125 | 18:30 | 18:40 | Daily |
| **Tinian–Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 102 | 7:05 | 7:15 | Daily |
| FRE 104 | 7:50 | 8:00 | Daily |
| FRE 106 | 8:20 | 8:30 | Daily |
| FRE 108 | 9:00 | 9:10 | Daily |
| FRE 110 | 10:00 | 10:10 | Daily |
| FRE 112 | 11:05 | 11:15 | Daily |
| FRE 114 | 12:00 | 12:10 | Daily |
| FRE 116 | 13:30 | 13:40 | Daily |
| FRE 118 | 14:50 | 15:00 | Daily |
| FRE 120 | 16:20 | 16:30 | Daily |
| FRE 122 | 17:00 | 17:10 | Daily |
| FRE 124 | 18:05 | 18:15 | Daily |
| FRE 126 | 18:50 | 19:00 | Daily |

# Business

## 2011 medication shortages set new record at 267

**TRENTON, N.J.** (AP)—The number of new prescription drug shortages in 2011 shot up to 267, well above the prior record and about four times the number of medication shortages in the middle of the last decade.

Figures just released by the University of Utah Drug Information Service, which tracks national drug shortages, show there were 56 more newly reported drug shortages in the U.S. last year than in 2010, when there were 211. By contrast, there were only 58 drug shortages reported in 2004.

As the drug shortages worsen, so does their impact on patient care, particularly in hospitals. The inability to get crucial medicines has disrupted chemotherapy, surgery and care for patients with infections and pain. At least 15 deaths since 2010 have been blamed on the shortages, which have set a record high in each of the last five years.

"At the beginning of the year, we were on a pace of about a shortage every day," Erin R. Fox, manager of the service, told The Associated Press. "Luckily, that pace has definitely diminished."

She noted the Food and Drug Administration has said it has prevented more than 100 new shortages in 2011. That's partly because of an executive order President Obama issued on Oct. 31 to address the shortages, with provisions requiring more manufacturers to report potential shortages in advance to the FDA.

But Fox is still worried because many of the current shortages won't be resolved anytime soon, based on reports from several key manufacturers that have had to shut down production because of contamination or other quality problems. For some medicines, there may be only one other manufacturer, which doesn't have the capacity to fill the gap immediately or completely.

In addition, Fox said some of the more recently reported shortages are very difficult for hospital pharmacists and other staff to manage. She noted new shortages of sedatives widely used in surgery, including Valium, Versed and lorazepam. Another big problem is the recent shortage of the opioid painkiller fentanyl.

"It is used like water in hospitals, for everything from moms giving birth and ICU patients to the ER," Fox said.

Her service provides hospitals with lists of alternative drugs to those in short supply, but for some medicines the alternatives also are hard to find, and switching to an unfamiliar drug can result in dosage errors.

## Factories, builders boost economy at end of year

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—U.S. manufacturers ended 2011 with their best month of growth since the late spring. And the struggling construction industry spent more on projects for the third time in four months.

The data bolstered hopes that the economy is gaining momentum and helped Wall Street start 2012 with a bang.

Factories hired more workers in December, saw the most growth in new orders since April and ramped up production. U.S. builders spent more in November on single-family homes, apartments and remodeling projects.

The strong reports correspond with other positive signs for the economy. Consumer confidence is up, unemployment benefit applications have tumbled and the unemployment rate is at a three-and-a-half-year low.

Economists caution that Europe's debt crisis will likely slow global growth in the first half of the year.

But on Tuesday, the outlook was mostly positive.

The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers, said its manufacturing index rose to 53.9 from 52.7 in November. Readings above 50 indicate expansion.

The Commerce Department said spending on construction projects rose 1.2 percent in November. The increase was the largest since a 2.2 percent rise in August.

"The trend for the U.S. economy is most decidedly to the upside," said Dan Greenhaus, an analyst at brokerage firm BTIG LLC in New York.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 179.82 points, almost 1.5 percent, to close at 12,397.38. Broader indexes also climbed. Reports that manufacturing grew in China and India, two of the world's largest economies, also drove markets higher.

U.S manufacturing has expanded for more than two years. Factories were one of the first areas of the economy to start growing after the recession officially ended in June 2009. They faltered over the summer after Japan's March 11 earthquake disrupted auto and electronics supply chains.

The December ISM survey showed many factories have largely recovered from their slump earlier this year

Exports rose despite the trouble in Europe. Growth in new orders means output will likely increase in the coming months. And U.S. factories hired last month at the fastest pace since June, an optimistic sign ahead of Friday's important measure of job growth in December.

"All in all, an upbeat report," said Peter Newland, an economist at Barclays Capital, who noted that the stronger manufacturing activity should contribute to faster economic growth in the October-December quarter.

Construction spending rose 1.2 percent in November to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $807.1 billion. While that's barely half the $1.5 trillion that economists consider healthy, home construction has begun a gradual rebound and likely added to the nation's economic growth in 2011.

Spending jumped 9.5 percent on home improvement projects in November. It rose 1.5 percent on single-family home construction and gained 1.3 percent on apartment building.

"While spending on single-family construction still remains extremely depressed, it has now increased for six straight months and looks consistent with other indicators signaling some improvement in the housing market," said Daniel Silver, an economist with JPMorgan Chase.

The U.S. economy still faces plenty of challenges. Europe is likely already in recession because of its ongoing debt crisis.

A separate survey of European manufacturers released earlier this week found that factory activity shrank last month for the 17 nations that use the euro.

"It is hard to see the U.S. economy strengthening this year when the eurozone is on the cusp of a potentially severe recession and when growth in Asia is set to slow," said Paul Dales, an economist at Capital Economics.

AP

In this Dec. 14, 2011 photo, Chris Keltz polishes a tank JV Northwest, in Canby, Ore. JV Northwest manufactures stainless steel vessels. Economic activity in the manufacturing sector expanded in December for the 29th consecutive month, and the overall economy grew for the 31st consecutive month, say the nation's supply executives in the latest Manufacturing ISM Report On Business.

## Ecuador court upholds ruling against Chevron

**QUITO, Ecuador** (AP)—An appeals court in Ecuador upheld an $18 billion ruling against Chevron Corp. on Tuesday for oil pollution in the Amazon rain forest more than two decades ago.

The ruling confirmed a February judgment in the case. The Ecuadorean plaintiffs said in a statement that the decision is based on scientific evidence presented at trial proving that waste had poisoned the water supply.

"The appellate court relied on a record that proved that Chevron has violated the rights of the communities where it operates," the plaintiffs said in the emailed statement.

The lawsuit deals with pollution of the rain forest by energy company Texaco, which Chevron bought in 2001.

Chevron denounced the appeals court's decision and said it will continue to seek recourse in other courts outside Ecuador.

"Today's decision is another glaring example of the politicization and corruption of Ecuador's judiciary that has plagued this fraudulent case from the start," Chevron said in a statement.

The San Ramon, California-based company has previously alleged fraud in the lawsuit. The plaintiffs have also accused Chevron of defrauding the Ecuadorean court to hide the scale of the oil contamination.

By the time of last year's judgment, the case had been winding its way through U.S. and Ecuadorean courts for more than 17 years.

The suit was originally filed in a New York federal court in 1993 against Texaco and dismissed three years later after the oil company argued that Ecuador was the proper venue to hear the case. The suit was refiled in Ecuador in 2003.

Though it had only 47 named plaintiffs, the lawsuit sought damages on behalf of 30,000 people for environmental contamination and illnesses that allegedly resulted from Texaco's operation of an oil consortium from 1972 to 1990 in the rain forest.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Wall Street's happy new year: Dow up almost 180

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The stock market got a big jump on a better year. After a flat 2011, stocks rose sharply Tuesday in the first trading of 2012 after investors returned from the holiday and found encouraging economic reports from the United States and around the world. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 179.82 points, or 1.4 percent, to 12,397.38, its highest close in more than five months. The Standard & Poor's 500 index, a broader gauge than the Dow, finished up almost 20 points at 1,277. The S&P finished 2011 almost exactly where it started—down a sliver, 0.04 of a point.

### Starbucks to raise prices in certain regions

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Starbucks said Tuesday it is raising some prices regionally as it faces rising ingredient costs. The Seattle coffee chain is raising prices about 1 percent in the Northeast and Sunbelt regions. Starbucks wouldn't disclose all of the states its raising prices, but the regions include New York; Washington, D.C.; and most Southern states. They exclude California and Florida. Other cities where it will raise prices include Boston, Atlanta, Dallas and Albuquerque, N.M.

### High salaries for Italian lawmakers stirs anger

**ROME** (AP)—A government-mandated report has confirmed what many Italians long suspected: The euro11,000 ($14,300) that Italian lawmakers earn each month far outpaces what their peers in some of Europe's largest economies get. Italy's bloated public sector and the privileges of its political elite have come under fire as the country battles its debt crisis with tax hikes, labor market and pension reforms that are hurting ordinary Italians. Premier Mario Monti has vowed to trim the cost of governing as part of his austerity measures, and has renounced his own salary as premier and economy minister.

# Nation

# Obama applauds Iowa Democrats for their help

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Inserting his voice into a big night for Republicans, President Barack Obama appealed to Iowa Democrats on Tuesday during the first balloting in the GOP presidential campaign, seeking to counter months of withering criticism in the state that launched his presidential ambitions four years ago.

Obama told party activists in a live video teleconference that because of their support, the Iraq war ended, a major health care reform bill was signed into law and the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays ended.

"Because of you, because of all the memories I have of being in your living rooms, meeting you in a diner or seeing you over in a campaign office, I have never lost that same source of inspiration that drove me to embark on this journey in the first place," Obama told Democrats attending precinct caucuses.

Obama outlined his progress during the first term and asked party activists for their help as Republicans made their first step toward choosing a challenger among a field that included Mitt Romney, Rick Santorum, Ron Paul and others. Beyond its early voting status, Iowa was expected to be hotly contested in the fall election.

"We're battling millions of dollars of negative advertising and lobbyists and special interests who don't want to see the change that you worked so hard for to fully take root," Obama said. "And that's why time this time out is going to be, in some ways, more important than the first time out."

"The problems that we've been dealing with over the last three years, they didn't happen overnight and we're not going to fix them overnight," he said. "We've been making steady progress."

AP

President Barack Obama, first lady Michelle Obama and their daughters Sasha and Malia arrive on the South Lawn of the White House, Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2012, in Washington. The

Obama wasted little time getting back in front of voters following a Hawaiian vacation spent largely out of the spotlight. On Wednesday, Obama will travel to Cleveland for an event focused on the economy.

The president used the video teleconference to talk directly with voters, an approach that encountered some audio problems during the short speech and question-and-answer session.

Obama was seeking to counter months of pounding by Republicans in Iowa and by the Republican National Committee, which has assailed Obama's economic record and tagged him as a president who has failed to live up to lofty expectations.

"Three years later, the president's promises of hope and change have been replaced with a record of failed leadership and policies that have made the economy worse," RNC spokeswoman Kirsten Kukowski said.

Iowa looks to be among about a dozen states that could shift either way in the 2012 campaign. Iowa has switched its support in each of the past three elections, supporting Obama in 2008, Republican President George W. Bush in 2004 and Democrat Al Gore in 2000.

In Des Moines, roughly 200 people gathered at a caucus site at Lincoln High School, making small talk and waiting for Obama to speak as a girls' basketball game was played in an adjoining gym. Several party loyalists said they thought Obama could reignite the loyal support he generated in 2008.

"No Republican candidate is exciting their base. There's just isn't anybody exciting their base, and if they can't get excited, I just can't believe they have a chance whatsoever," said Danny Waterman, 65, a retired police officer who supported Obama four years ago.

Rebecca Kaiser, 60, an insurance clerk who served as a precinct chairwoman for Obama's campaign in 2008, said the president's "hands have really been tied."

"Without the support of Congress he can't get anything done, and now it seems as though he's learning to put a little more pressure on them," Kaiser said. "I would have liked to have seen that earlier on, but hindsight is 20/20."

Trying to build on his 2008 win there, Obama's campaign has opened eight offices in the state and had held more than 1,200 training sessions, phone banks and other events and made more than 350,000 phone calls to supporters since April.

## Iowa: Santorum, Romney and Paul leading the vote

**DES MOINES, Iowa** (AP)—Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and Texas Rep. Ron Paul waged a tense, three-way struggle for supremacy in Iowa's Republican presidential caucuses Tuesday night, opening the campaign to pick a challenger to President Barack Obama.

Returns from nearly one-third of the state's 1,774 precincts showed the three men narrowly separated—even taking turns in first place as the evening wore on—in a fitting conclusion for a race as jumbled as any since Iowa gained the lead-off position in presidential campaigns four decades ago.

The winner was in line for bragging rights—and perhaps much more—as the Republican nominating campaign makes the turn to primaries in New Hampshire on Jan. 10, then South Carolina and Florida before the end of January. For some of the also-rans, history suggested the first event of the year might also be the last.

Whoever eventually finished ahead, it appeared likely the winner's share of the vote would be a record low for GOP caucuses in the state. Former Sen. Bob Dole had 26.3 percent support in 1996, when he won.

The economy and the federal budget deficit were top issues, judged more important than abortion or health care, according to a survey of early caucus-goers.

ELECTION 2012

**Iowa results**

*As of 11:30 p.m. ET:*

| Republicans | GOP |
|---|---|
| Mitt Romney | 25% |
| Rick Santorum | 25 |
| Ron Paul | 21 |
| Newt Gingrich | 13 |
| Rick Perry | 10 |
| Michele Bachmann | 5 |
| Jon Huntsman | 1 |
| Garry Johnson | >1 |
| Buddy Roemer | >1 |
| Undecided/other | >1 |

Results are rounded

| Democrats | Dems |
|---|---|
| Barack Obama (ran uopposed) | |

Source: AP © 2012 MCT

About a third of those surveyed said they most wanted a candidate who could defeat Obama, and they tended to favor Romney. Paul held a broad advantage among the nearly one in four who called the selection of a true conservative their top priority, and he also made a strong showing among younger and first-time caucus-goers.

Supporters of the tea party made up about two-thirds of the electorate, and were nearly evenly split among Paul, Romney and Santorum.

The survey by Edison Media Research for The Associated Press and television networks was based on interviews with more than 700 people arriving at 40 precinct caucuses across the state.

## Man dies at Alaska center for street alcoholics

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska** (AP)—A man who was slurring his speech and appeared intoxicated was found dead on New Year's Day at a controversial center in Anchorage where chronic street alcoholics are allowed to keep drinking.

The center has been under fire for its unconventional approach to dealing with alcoholism in Anchorage, where advocates have been looking for new ways to help homeless alcoholics after more than 20 people—most of them severely intoxicated—died outdoors over a 12-month period in 2009 and 2010.

Employees checked on 54-year-old John Kort several times Sunday after a visitor noticed that he appeared drunk and was having trouble walking. Kort was escorted to his room where a manor employee lay him down on the bed and rolled him onto his side. When he was checked 40 minutes later, Kort was sitting on the floor with his head against the bed. He again was placed on his bed and on his side.

When an employee checked on him a third time, Kort was face-down on his bed, not breathing and his hands were cold, said Anchorage police spokesman Dave Parker. Police and paramedics could not revive him.

Parker said there was no suicide note. Alcohol and perhaps pills are believed to be factors in his death. An empty prescription pill bottle was found in his room.

Karluk Manor, which opened less than a month ago in a former Red Roof Inn, is based on the Housing First model that maintains that chronic alcoholics are best-served by providing them with safe housing as a first step toward self-sufficiency and eventual integration into the community. The manor was modeled after the 1811 Eastlake project in Seattle, where hundreds of housing units have been provided for chronic alcoholics.

The experiment has caught on in other cities as well—sometimes with positive results. A 2009 study in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that Seattle's program saved taxpayers more than $4 million a year and credited the system with helping many alcoholics kick their habit.

Karluk Manor residents each pay $50 a month for a 220-square-foot furnished efficiency with a private bathroom. Each unit has a microwave, small refrigerator and dining area. Residents are allowed to drink in their rooms.

Deaths were expected to occur at the 46-unit facility. The program's management plan has a section titled "Procedures in the Event of Death."

But Kort's death highlights the problem with Karluk Manor, said Michael Howard, president of the Fairview Community Council, which opposed the opening of the manor in the neighborhood already dealing with its share of homeless alcoholics and associated problems.

## Woman sues Honda in unlikely place: small claims

**TORRANCE, Calif.** (AP)—A Los Angeles woman who expected her hybrid Honda Civic to be a high-mileage machine wants the automaker to pay for not delivering the 50 mpg it promised. But rather than being one of thousands in a class-action lawsuit, she took her case Tuesday to small claims court.

Experts said Heather Peters has a better chance of winning her case in a court with more relaxed standards and could get a payout many times higher than the few hundred dollars offered to class-action plaintiffs.

Peters said she's been contacted by hundreds of owners who also want to take their chances with small-claims, where there are no attorneys' fees and cases are decided quickly.

"If I prevail and get $10,000, they have 200,000 of these cars out there," said Peters.

Peters, a state employee and ex-lawyer, argued that Honda knew her car wouldn't get the 50 mpg as advertised before a judge in Torrance, where American Honda Motor Co. has its West Coast headquarters. As her 2006 vehicle's battery deteriorated over time, it barely got 30 mpg, she said.

Neil Schmidt, a technical expert for Honda, called Peters' $10,000 claim excessive for her 2006 Civic Hybrid. He said the federal government had required Honda to post the highest mileage the car could get, but said the mileage varies depending on how the car is driven—for instance, if it gets stuck often in stop-and-go traffic.

Peters said she would have never purchased the car if she had known that.

"The sales force said 50 miles per gallon, but they didn't say if you run your air conditioning and you remain in stop-and-go traffic, you're going to get 29 to 30 miles per gallon," she said. "If they did, I would have gotten the regular Civic."

Peters never contacted Honda to complain or express any concern about her vehicle's fuel economy until she sent a letter in late November 2011 and then filed her suit shortly thereafter, Honda said in a statement Tuesday.

"Once the suit was filed, Honda immediately offered to inspect her vehicle and work with her on the findings, but those offers were rejected," the company said in the statement.

The company also said it did not believe Peters was deceived. "The window sticker that was attached to her vehicle (as required by federal law) clearly indicated that her mileage would vary depending on driving conditions, options, vehicle condition and other factors," the statement said.

Peters did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment on Honda's statement.

But if Peters wins, and other Civic owners follow her lead, she estimates Honda could be forced to pay as much as $2 billion in damages.

# Asia

## NKorea holds rally; shows young Kim meeting troops

**PYONGYANG, North Korea** (AP)—Pumping their fists and chanting, tens of thousands of North Koreans packed the snowy main square of the capital Tuesday to pledge their loyalty to new leader Kim Jong Un as the campaign to consolidate his power deepened.

State television also aired footage of Kim's recent visit to an elite tank unit with family and historical ties that showed him interacting with soldiers with ease and carrying out inspections much like father Kim Jong Il and grandfather Kim Il Sung did before him—footage that aimed to show off his youth and health and put his confidence and authority on display.

The rally and the footage were the latest steps in a carefully choreographed campaign to build support for North Korea's new leader that began the day news broke of Kim Jong Il's death last month. In swift succession, top officials from the powerful military and ruling Workers' Party have pledged their loyalty to the son, leaving no room for doubt about whether the young man would take power.

Kim Jong Il died Dec. 17 of a heart attack, leaving the nation of 24 million in the hands of his youngest son, who was a mystery even to the North Korean people until his emergence in September 2010 as his father's favored successor.

Since Kim Jong Un, who is in his late 20s, was made a four-star general and a vice chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party, the campaign to groom him has been fast. Within a year, Kim Jong Un had become a fixture at his father's side for inspection visits to military units and factories and at official events.

However, Kim Jong Il's sudden death catapulted the son to the limelight at a delicate time for North Korea. It was discussing with Washington much-needed food aid in exchange for nuclear disarmament. North Korea has tested two atomic devices since 2006.

Kim Jong Un did not have the benefit of 20 years of grooming like Kim Jong Il did when his father, North Korea founder Kim Il Sung, died in 1994 of a heart attack.

Instead, North Korea has sought to highlight Kim Jong Un's heritage as heir to North Korea's founding fathers, underlining his physical resemblance to the late President Kim Il Sung and characterizing him as an "identical" extension of his father.

In the documentary of his military visit Sunday, he was dressed in a long, dark overcoat similar to the coat his grandfather used to wear. He is shown in an exhibition room lined with black-and-white photos, including an image portraying a young Kim Il Sung.

The footage also served to show the confidence of Kim, who mingled easily with soldiers and appeared to be giving them pointers in the documentary shown just days after the ruling party officially proclaimed him supreme commander of the 1.2-million-strong Korean People's Army.

Soldiers cheered and chanted his name as Kim made an inaugural solo trip to provide "on-the-spot guidance" in the first official documentary of the new leader shown on North Korean TV. At one point, Kim leaned in to pull one man close to him to share a few words, leaving the officer in tears.

"Kim Jong Un's telling the world that even though he's young, he's in charge and capable of wielding a saber like this father did," said Kim Jin-moo, a North Korea expert at the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses in South Korea.

AP

In this Jan. 1, 2012 image released by the Korean Central News Agency and distributed Monday, Jan. 2, 2012 in Tokyo by the Korea News Service, North Korea's new leader Kim Jong Un, 2nd right, inspects a room to educate about revolutionary achievement at Seoul Ryu Kyong Su 105 Guards Tank Division of the Korean People's Army in North Korea to congratulate servicepersons on New Year's day.

## Philippines: 5 foreign terror suspects in south

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—At least five foreign extremists have been hiding on a remote southern Philippine island and could help link Filipino radicals to potential overseas financiers and combat trainers like the al-Qaida terrorist network, a military commander said Tuesday.

The five, who have been roaming the tropical jungles of Jolo island in Sulu province, are led by U.S.-trained Malaysian engineer Zulkifli bin Hir, one of the remaining key terror suspects in Southeast Asia, regional military commander Lt. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer said.

"They seem to be actively moving around Sulu," Ferrer told reporters.

U.S. troops have been providing training, intelligence and other noncombat help to underfunded Filipino troops for years to help crush local Abu Sayyaf militants and the foreign extremists they shelter, including members of the Indonesia-based militant network Jemaah Islamiyah.

U.S.-backed Philippine offensives have been credited for the capture and killing of hundreds of Abu Sayyaf fighters and their foreign allies in Sulu, an impoverished Muslim region about 590 miles (950 kilometers) south of Manila, and in outlying island provinces.

Washington has offered huge rewards for some of the terror suspects, including $5 million for Zulkifli bin Hir, also known as Marwan. The Malaysian has been accused of involvement in past bombings and of helping secure funds and weapons for the Abu Sayyaf from foreign donors.

Ferrer said the other foreign militants are a Singaporean identified as Abdullah Ali who uses the guerrilla name Muawiyah, and an Indonesian identified only as Qayim. The two others are Amin Baco, probably a Malaysian who uses the alias Abu Jihad, and another Indonesian identified as Sa'ad, he said.

Troops have obtained pictures of Marwan and Muawiyah, Ferrer said.

Ferrer, who heads the military's Western Mindanao Command, said he was unaware of other foreign militants outside his command. A government threat assessment report issued last year seen by The Associated Press lists 12 identified foreign terror suspects, including those named by Ferrer.

Aside from a yearslong military manhunt, troops have been launching offensives to kill or capture Abu Sayyaf militants and destroy their strongholds to deny foreign radicals sanctuaries, Ferrer said.

Military officials have accused hard-line commanders of a larger Philippine rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, of harboring Jemaah Islamiyah militants in southern Mindanao region's marshy heartland. The 11,000-strong Moro group, which is engaged in peace talks with the government, has denied any links with foreign terrorist groups.

## ASIAN BRIEFS

### Japan PM vows to bring 'rebirth' to Fukushima

**TOKYO** (AP)—Japan's prime minister has pledged to bring "rebirth" to the area around the crippled Fukushima nuclear power plant. Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda told a new conference Wednesday that authorities would work to decontaminate the region from radioactive fallout, while ensuring compensation and health checks for those affected by the disaster. The nuclear crisis was triggered by damage from an earthquake and tsunami in March and has dislocated about 100,000 residents. The region around the plant remains off-limits. Government officials have said it may be many years before residents can return.

### Police think poisoned cat meat killed China tycoon

**BEIJING** (AP)—Police in China investigating the death of a billionaire believe it may be a case of murder by cat meat. Forestry company-tycoon Long Liyuan died last month after a business lunch in the southern city of Yangjiang where he shared a local delicacy: cat meat hotpot. An online statement from city police says one of Long's lunch partners, Huang Guang, has been detained on suspicion of poisoning the hotpot with a toxic herb. Long's family claimed he may have been deliberately poisoned.

### Taliban to open Qatar office for peace talks

**KABUL, Afghanistan** (AP)—The Taliban announced Tuesday that they will open an office in the Persian Gulf nation of Qatar to hold talks with the United States, an unprecedented step toward a peace process that might lead to a winding down of the 10-year war in Afghanistan. Although U.S. and Taliban representatives have met secretly several times over the past year in Europe and the Persian Gulf, this is the first time the Islamist insurgent group has publicly expressed willingness for substantive negotiations.

## Coalition to pull $30B in gear from Afghanistan

**KABUL, Afghanistan** (AP)—As the pace of the drawdown of U.S. troops from Afghanistan picks up in 2012, military planners are trying to figure out how to ship huge quantities of alliance vehicles, weapons and other equipment out of the mountainous, landlocked country.

The operation requires the removal of $30 billion worth of state-of-the-art military gear by the end of 2014, when U.S. and other coalition troops are to end their combat role, a senior U.S. official said Tuesday.

Most of the American equipment will be shipped to military depots in the United States for refurbishment and then redistributed to bases around the country. Some assets will go to bases in Europe, primarily Germany, or in Asian nations like South Korea.

"The stuff we have here is the very best the U.S. has ever produced," the official said. "It's better than anything available (to military units) in the United States."

He spoke on condition of anonymity because the planning for the equipment pullout is still in its initial stages.

Aside from the armored vehicles and trucks, other gear that will be shipped out includes large quantities of armor, communications and optical equipment, as well as large crew-served artillery systems.

In 2011, the U.S.-led coalition began the withdrawal of nearly 140,000 foreign troops serving in Afghanistan, and 10,000 U.S. service members have already pulled out. By the end of this year, another 23,000 Americans are due to depart, along with thousands more allied soldiers, reducing the coalition force in Afghanistan to about 90,000.

The quantity of military equipment that was accumulated here by the United States and its allies in 10 years of war is formidable. Although small amounts have already been removed, the planning is complex due to inherent complications of moving so much heavy gear out of a landlocked nation with problematic relations with some of its neighbors, said the official.

Only a relatively small number of the tens of thousands of vehicles can be flown out by air, because of the high weight of some of them, such as the as the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, or MRAPs, and its all-terrain variety, the M-ATV, tipping the scales at many tons each.

Afghanistan's neighbor Pakistan shut down the alliance's main transit routes from the port of Karachi in November in response to a NATO air attack on a Pakistani border post that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers.

The alliance has been able to ship equipment and supplies in from the north through Russia and the Central Asian nations. Additional agreements are needed to allow the two-way traffic to transport the equipment back to Europe via the northern route.

During the recent pullout from Iraq, the U.S. military was able to simply drive its vehicles in large convoys to neighboring Kuwait, where a deep sea port was available. In contrast, the main routes out of Afghanistan require vehicles and containers to be loaded on trucks or trains for the onward journey.

"The challenges of geography are enormous," the official said. "I wish Afghanistan was a coastal country with a great port, but it's not."

# World

## Sarkozy accuses Syrian regime of 'massacres'

**BEIRUT** (AP)—French President Nicolas Sarkozy issued a new call Tuesday for Syrian President Bashar Assad to step down because of massacres by his regime, and an Arab League official said it will discuss withdrawing an observer mission to the country due to the ongoing bloodshed.

While the Arab League said some progress was seen in Syria by the team of monitors who began working last week, it noted that the mission was still in its early stages.

But Sarkozy insisted that Assad "must leave power."

"The massacres being committed by the Syrian regime rightly arouse disgust and revolt in the Arab world, in France, in Europe and everywhere in the world," Sarkozy said in a New Year's address at a navy air base in Lanveoc-Poulmic, France.

The U.N. estimated several weeks ago that more than 5,000 people have been killed by Syrian security forces in the crackdown on the anti-government protests that began in March. Since that report, opposition activists say hundreds more have been killed.

The violence has drawn broad international condemnation and sanctions, but Assad remains defiant. The Arab League sent in about 100 observers a week ago to verify Syria's compliance with the organization's plan that requires the regime to remove security forces and heavy weapons from city streets, start talks with opposition leaders and free political prisoners. Syria agreed to the plan, intended to halt the crackdown, on Dec. 19.

AP

In this photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, an Arab League monitor speaks with a Syrian student at Al-Sabil area, in Daraa, Syria, on Tuesday Jan. 3, 2012.

In Washington, White House spokesman Jay Carney insisted the violence must stop. "We have made clear that if the Arab League initiative is not implemented, the international community will have to consider new measures to compel a halt to the regime's violence against its own citizens," he said.

The Arab League mission has been coming under increasing criticism by opponents of Assad's regime who say some observers lack experience. Its chief, Lt. Gen. Mohamed Ahmed Mustafa al-Dabi, raised opposition concerns because he served in key security positions under Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, who is wanted on an international arrest warrant for crimes against humanity in Darfur.

The Arab League's deputy secretary-general, Ahmed bin Heli, said there will be a meeting Saturday to look into the first report by the head of the monitoring mission.

Arab League official Adnan al-Khudeir, who heads the operations room that the monitors report to, said the meeting will be chaired by Qatari Prime Minister Sheik Hamad Bin Jassem Bin Jabr Al Thani, a harsh critic of Assad's crackdown.

"There is noticeable progress," al-Khudeir said referring to the reports he received so far.

"It is hard to make a judgment on the mission of the monitors because they are still in the beginning," he said, adding: "We can't tell if they failed or succeeded right now."

Another official told The Associated Press that the ministerial meeting will discuss whether to pull out the monitors because of the ongoing violence. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

No final decision will be made Saturday, but recommendations will be sent to another, high-level ministerial meeting. No date was set for that session.

On Monday, Arab League chief Nabil Elaraby acknowledged the killings have continued even with the monitors in Syria, but he insisted the mission has yielded important concessions from Damascus, such as the withdrawal of heavy weapons from cities.

"Yes, there is still shooting and yes there are still snipers," he said. "Yes, killings continue. The objective is for us to wake up in the morning and hear that no one is killed. The mission's philosophy is to protect civilians, so if one is killed, then our mission is incomplete."

Syrian opposition groups have been deeply critical of the mission, saying it is giving Assad cover for his crackdown. The Local Coordination Committees, an umbrella group of activists, says the observer mission is witnessing mainly regime-staged events, and they move about the country only with the full knowledge of the government.

Syrian dissident Omar Idilbi told The Associated Press that statements by Arab League officials "were surprising and we were shocked by what they said." Idilbi was referring to Elaraby's comments in which he said Syria's government has pulled tanks and artillery from cities and residential neighborhoods and freed some 3,500 prisoners.

"Many videos posted by activists show that tanks are still in the streets, and since the mission arrived in Syria, the regime is staging wild campaigns of arrests," he said. Still, he said, the mission's presence had advantages such as ending the regime blackout on what is going on in Syria and releasing some activists.

## Iran defiant amid appeals for European sanctions

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates** (AP)—Iran closed out naval war games in the Gulf on Tuesday much the way they began last month: striking a tone of military defiance while Western powers rallied behind tougher oil and financial sanctions as a crippling tool against Tehran's nuclear program.

The standoff atmosphere—less than a week after Iran warned it could block one of the world's key oil tanker sea lanes in response to economic pressures—appeared to deepen further with an Iranian general suggesting a U.S. aircraft carrier is not welcome to return to the Gulf.

In Paris, meanwhile, France's foreign minister said there is "no doubt" that Iran is moving toward a nuclear weapon and urged Europe to match America's tighter sanctions set in motion last week. Alain Juppe said the measures could include targeting Iran's Central Bank and imposing an Iranian oil embargo.

A Western snub of one of OPEC's heavyweight exporters would still leave Iran with many oil-hungry markets such as China and India—and give Tehran crucial economic lifelines to resist the U.S. and its allies. But worries that Gulf tensions could disrupt supplies sent oil above $101 a barrel and piled more pressure on Iran's currency, the rial, which hit record lows against the dollar earlier this week.

"It's clear the economy is in dire straits and the sanctions are having an impact no matter what Iranian officials say," said Salman Shaikh, director of The Brookings Doha Center in Qatar. "Hitting the oil sectors may push the economy down even further, but that doesn't mean Iran will bend to the West."

Iran has proposed restarting international talks on its nuclear program, which Tehran insists is only for peaceful energy and research purposes. The offer to reopen dialogue is widely interpreted as a sign that Western sanctions are taking a serious bite. But the outreach could also include preconditions such as easing the economic pressures, which would likely meet strong resistance in Washington and elsewhere.

"This has become the classic Iranian approach all along with the nuclear issue: try to buy some time with offers of cooperation but then coming back with the hard line," Shaikh said.

As 10-day naval maneuvers wrapped up, Iran's army chief, Gen. Ataollah Salehi, said an "American warship" that left the Gulf should not return. He didn't cite a specific vessel, but the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet has said that the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis and another vessel headed out from the Gulf and through the Strait of Hormuz last week after a visit to Dubai's Jebel Ali port.

## Libya plans vote on assembly to draft constitution

**TRIPOLI, Libya** (AP)—Libya's interim government has proposed a draft law for electing an assembly to draft a new constitution—a first step to setting up a new government after the ouster of Moammar Gadhafi.

The draft, published Monday night on the website of the ruling National Transitional Council, would bar former members of Gadhafi's regime from running in the election. It would even ban anyone who got a degree based on academic research on the Green Book—Gadhafi's rambling political manifesto that laid out his theory of government and society declaring Libya a "republic of the masses."

Libya is facing serious challenges to build state institutions from scratch after toppling Gadhafi's 42-year dictatorship. The interim government must set rules for the transition to democracy and forge some sort of national reconciliation among the huge numbers of Libyans who were integral parts of former regime.

One of the most serious and immediate problems facing the interim leaders is disbanding disparate armed groups of former revolutionary fighters, which are divided by the regions where the operate. The regional militias, which played a major role in bringing Gadhafi down, are in charge of security in their areas in the absence of a strong and unified national military force. Clashes between the groups are frequent.

Fierce gunbattles between the militias of Tripoli and the city of Misrata erupted Tuesday in the center of the capital and left at least four fighters dead, said Tripoli's military council commander, Abdel-Hakim Belhaj.

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Jordan: Israelis, Palestinians to resume dialogue

**AMMAN, Jordan** (AP)—The first meeting between Israeli and Palestinian peace negotiators in more than a year ended without any significant breakthroughs on Tuesday, but in a small sign of progress, the sides agreed to continue the dialogue, officials said. Resumption of any kind of contacts would be an important achievement, though Israel and the Palestinians remain far from agreement on key issues to resolve their decades-long conflict. The 15-month breakdown in negotiations has seen a progressive souring of the atmosphere, and earlier Tuesday, the Palestinian president had warned of taking tough measures against Israel if talks don't resume by Jan. 26.

### Brazil employers accused of slave-like conditions

**SAO PAULO** (AP)—Nearly 300 employers in South America's biggest country submit workers to slave-like conditions, Brazil's Labor Ministry said Tuesday. The ministry said in a statement that its "dirty list" increased by 52 and now has a total of 294 employers, from big to small. Reporter Brasil, a non-governmental organization that monitors slave labor in Brazil and efforts to combat it, praised the government's drive to eradicate slave-like working conditions, but said much remains to be done to eradicate the practice. Until those employers on the "dirty list" stop the practice, they won't be able to obtain credit from government and private banks.

### Argentine leader's supporters plan overnight vigil

**BUENOS AIRES, Argentina** (AP)—Supporters of Argentine President Cristina Fernandez are calling for a long night's vigil ahead of her surgery for thyroid cancer. They plan to start gathering at 1 a.m. Wednesday in the capital's Plaza de Mayo and outside the Hospital Austral, as well as at other public squares around the country. They plan to stay until she's out of surgery. Thyroid removal is relatively routine and doctors predict a speedy recovery. The 58-year-old leader has papillary thyroid carcinoma, and her doctors said it was detected before it spread, so her condition should curable without chemotherapy.

# Focus

**TRENTON, N.J.** (AP)—Lipitor, the best-selling drug in the history of pharmaceuticals, is the blockbuster that almost wasn't.

# Against odds, Lipitor became world's top seller

By LINDA A. JOHNSON
AP BUSINESS WRITER

When it was in development, the cholesterol-lowering medicine was viewed as such an also-ran it almost didn't make it into patient testing.

By the time Lipitor went on sale in early 1997, it was the fifth drug in a class called statins that lower LDL or bad cholesterol. The class already included three blockbusters, drugs with sales of $1 billion a year or more. Normally, that would make it very tough for a latecomer to sway many doctors and patients to switch.

But a 1996 study showed Lipitor reduced bad cholesterol dramatically more than the other statins, from the very start of treatment and even more so over time. A striking graph of those results helped Lipitor sales representatives turn it into the world's best-selling drug ever, with more than $125 billion in sales over 14 1/2 years.

Nicknamed "turbostatin," Lipitor became the top-selling statin barely three years after it was launched. It's provided 20 percent to 25 percent of the company's annual revenue for years.

But after nearly a decade as the top-selling drug, Lipitor is set to be toppled in 2012 after getting its first generic rivals four weeks ago.

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At the time, heart attack prevention basically amounted to telling patients to eat more oatmeal and skip the steak.

Lipitor creator Warner-Lambert, a mid-sized drugmaker best known for consumer health products including Listerine, Benadryl allergy pills and Halls cough drops, got a late start in what turned into a surprisingly fast-growing market.

Merck & Co. had a decade lead with Mevacor, launched in 1987. By 1994, its successor drug, Zocor, along with Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.'s Pravachol and Novartis AG's Lescol, had crowded the market.

"Those other companies didn't even take us seriously. They didn't think we could be a viable contender," said Adele Gulfo, then head of cardiovascular marketing at Warner-Lambert Co. who now heads Pfizer's primary care drugs business.

Doctors said they were "quite satisfied with the medicines we have," she recalled recently.

Given that, marketing executives at Warner-Lambert were projecting Lipitor sales of $300 million a year at best, recalls the drugs's inventor, chemist Bruce D. Roth.

"I wish someday you guys could make us a drug we could sell," the marketers told his team, recalls Roth, a research vice president for Genentech, a biotech pioneer now owned by Swiss drugmaker Roche.

They had, but didn't see it.

"There was a lot of controversy at Warner-Lambert as to whether we should even take our molecule into the clinic" for human testing, Roth says. "It was kind of a big risk ... It's millions of dollars."

But senior management was persuaded in 1990 to at least fund the initial round of testing on a couple dozen employee volunteers.

The results were far better than what had been seen in the animal tests.

"It tremendously, incredibly outperformed the other statins," Roth says. "It was as good at its lowest dose as the other statins were at their highest dose."

So Warner-Lambert partnered with much-larger Pfizer Inc., considered the industry's top marketer, first to help fund the expensive late-stage testing of the drug in people and then to promote Lipitor after it was launched. Pfizer bought out Warner-Lambert in 2000 to block two other companies trying to acquire it and get control of Lipitor.

Pfizer benefited from some lucky timing: Lipitor went on sale in 1997, the year the Food and Drug Administration first allowed drug ads targeting consumers.

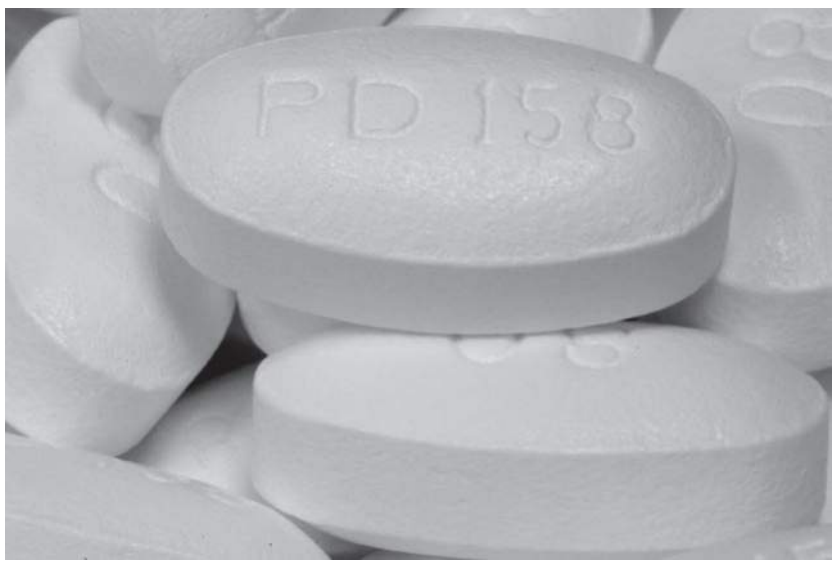
So Pfizer spent tens of millions on ads, including on the popular drama "ER," first urging patients to "Know Your Numbers" and then showing patients discuss how Lipitor helped them get their cholesterol numbers below guideline goals.

Meanwhile, health groups kept lowering the cholesterol targets in national guidelines, making millions more patients good candidates for statin treatment, as new research showed the link between cholesterol levels and consequences such as heart attacks. All those new patients boosted sales for the whole statin class, particularly Lipitor.

The Lipitor promotion team set new standards for a marketing campaign. They repeatedly visited family doctors as well as cardiologists, and blanketed patients with data showing that Lipitor was best at lowering cholesterol. They stressed to doctors nervous about safety that Lipitor's lowest dose worked as well as rivals' highest doses. They gave free samples of the white pills and sometimes bought lunch for the office staff.

In another savvy move, Lipitor was priced below rival drugs.

The company continued research on Lipitor, through this year conducting more than 400 studies, costing roughly $1 billion and including more than 80,000 patients. The studies have shown how Lipitor helped patients with heart problems, diabetes, stroke risk and other conditions, by preventing heart attacks and strokes and reducing plaque buildup in arteries.




AP
In this June 14, 2011 file photo, the drug Lipitor is displayed at Medco Health Solutions Inc., in Willingboro, N.J.

Even with Zocor, Pravachol and Mevacor all going generic several years ago, and AstraZeneca PLC's Crestor joining the market in 2003, Lipitor sales have remained strong. It's the only brand-name drug among the 20 most-dispensed drugs in the U.S., according to data firm IMS Health.

But Pfizer, the world's largest drugmaker by revenue, has struggled to develop another runaway blockbuster. Its bid to create a next-generation statin flamed out in 2007 when it had to abandon heavily touted compound torcetrapib, after roughly $800 million in testing, because it raised heart attack and stroke risk.

In recent years, Pfizer has focused on creating other types of drugs and on another unprecedented strategy—this one for hanging onto Lipitor revenue until June, when multiple new generic Lipitor versions will join one sold by Ranbaxy Laboratories and the authorized generic from Watson Pharmaceuticals Inc. Pfizer is offering patients and insurance plans big discounts and rebates, including cards giving patients a $4 monthly copayment, if they stay on Lipitor until then.

But branded Lipitor is by no means history.

Its patent is still in force in many major foreign countries and Pfizer is promoting it heavily in emerging markets such as China.

Pfizer's strategy to keep U.S. patients on Lipitor appears to be working a little better than some analysts expected: The number of Lipitor prescriptions filled in the first full week after generics arrived only fell by half.

Sanford Bernstein analyst Dr. Tim Anderson forecasts Lipitor sales will decline from about $11 billion in 2009 and 2010 to $3.9 billion next year and just above $3 billion in 2015.

That would make it Pfizer's No. 3 drug that year—and possibly still among the world's 20 top-selling drugs by revenue, as half those on the current list also will have generic competition by then.

Lipitor, the best-selling drug in the history of pharmaceuticals, is the blockbuster that almost wasn't.

When it was in development, the cholesterol-lowering medicine was viewed as such an also-ran it almost didn't make it into patient testing.

By the time Lipitor went on sale in early 1997, it was the fifth drug in a class called statins that lower LDL or bad cholesterol. The class already included three blockbusters, drugs with sales of $1 billion a year or more. Normally, that would make it very tough for a latecomer to sway many doctors and patients to switch.

But a 1996 study showed Lipitor reduced bad cholesterol dramatically more than the other statins, from the very start of treatment and even more so over time. A striking graph of those results helped Lipitor sales representatives turn it into the world's best-selling drug ever, with more than $125 billion in sales over 14 1/2 years.

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The results were far better than what had been seen in the animal tests.

## Going generic

*Seven of the top 20 best-selling prescription drugs worldwide will be available in generic versions within the next 14 months.*

### New generics at a glance

Manufacturer, condition treated and date generic will be available

**Lipitor,** Pfizer, high cholesterol
**November 2011**

**Plavix,** Bristol-Myers Squibb, prevent blood clots in patients with heart disease
**May 2012**

**Seroquel,** Astra-Zeneca, anti-psychotic
**March 2012**

**Zyprexa,** Eli Lilly, anti-psychotic
**October 2011**

**Singulair,** Merck, asthma
**August 2012**

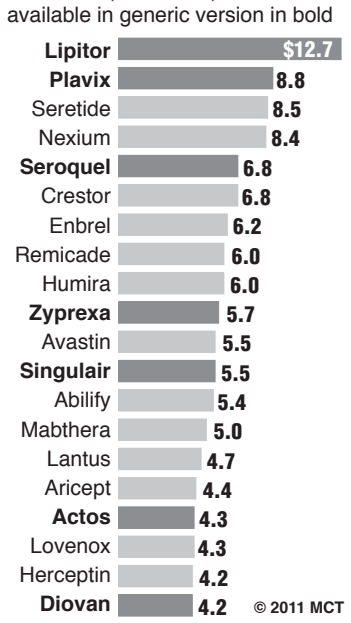
**Actos,** Tokeda, diabetes
**August 2012**

**Diovan,** Novartis, high blood pressure
**September 2012**

Source: IMS Health
Graphic: Pat Carr

### Top sellers

2010 sales, in billions; soon available in generic version in bold

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# Environment

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS

## More than $20 million in grants to conserve coastal wetlands

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced yesterday $20.5 million in grants to support 24 projects in 13 states to conserve and restore coastal wetlands and their fish and wildlife habitat. The grants, awarded under the 2012 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program, will be matched by nearly $21 million in partner contributions from state and local governments, private landowners and conservation groups.

"Coastal wetlands serve as some of nature's most productive fish and wildlife habitat while providing storm protection, improved water quality, and abundant recreational opportunities for local communities," Salazar said. "I am pleased that with these grants we are able to help our state partners implement some of their high-priority projects that support both conservation and recreation along their coasts."

Salazar

The grants will be used to acquire, restore, or enhance coastal wetlands and adjacent uplands to provide long-term conservation benefits to fish, wildlife and their habitat. States receiving funds include Alaska, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Texas, Virginia, and Washington.

The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and funded under provisions of the 1990 Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act. Funding is provided by Sport Fish Restoration Act revenue—money generated from an excise tax on fishing equipment, motorboat and small engine fuels.

The grants support President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative for conservation, recreation and reconnecting people to the outdoors. A recent 50-State Report lists more than 100 of the country's most promising projects—a result of 50 meetings with governors and stakeholders held by Salazar and other senior Interior officials to solicit ideas on how to best implement AGO in their states—including two projects that will be supported by yesterday's grants. These two projects are:

■ Bird Island Cove Estuarine Habitat Restoration Project: The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department was awarded a $1 million grant to protect and restore coastal and estuarine barrier island habitats in West Galveston Bay along the north shoreline of Galveston Island, Texas. The project will restore approximately 70 acres of estuarine marsh complex, which will provide additional protection to the existing intertidal marsh that has been degraded by the effects of relative sea level rise.

■ Thousand Acre Marsh Wetland Protection Project: The Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife and Delaware's Open Space Program will acquire the 194-acre Yardley-Dale property, part of the Thousand Acre Marsh along the Delaware River in New Castle County. The Thousand Acre Marsh is a haven for breeding and wintering waterfowl, waterbirds, muskrat, and fish. The marsh also provides critical wintering habitat for bald eagles.

Coastal areas comprise less than 10 percent of the nation's land area yet support a significant number of wildlife species, including 75 percent of migratory birds, nearly 80 percent of fish and shellfish and about half of all threatened and endangered species. ***(DOI)***


*In Celebration of his New Life*

**NICHOLAS (NICK) SABO RAMON**

Born to life on February 8, 1942
was called to eternal rest on December 29, 2011

***His memory will live in the hearts of his:***

Mother: Blumel Karngemau Ramon
**Wife:** Francisca Tenorio Sablan Ramon
**Children:** Debbie/Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. (TJ Imrur, Isechal, Lalii, Mayumi and family)
Blumel R./Francisco S. Ada (Jesse, Francisco IV, Sabo, & Joseph)
Antonette R./Warren F. Villagomez (Sydney, Sage, & Cecilia)
Nick S./Gloria I. Ramon (Frannie)
Manny S./Junita S. Ramon

**Brothers/Sisters:** Nauru Ramon
Justino/Laisang Ramon and family
Selina R. Rechetuker and family
Goretti Ramon and family
Estelita R. Jennings and family
Carlos Ramon
Agnes A./Robert Schrack and family

**Brothers/Sisters in Law:** Josephine T. Sablan and family
Magdalena S./Bruce Barker and family
Rita S./Jose S. Dela Cruz and family
John T./Gloria DLG. Sablan and family
Larissa S./Joseph A. Flores and family

**Caregivers:** Bernadita Mangahis
Marc Anthony Ausejo

***In his new life, he now joins:***

**Father:** †Kyoshi Ramon
**Brothers:** †Tatsuo Ramon
†Fermin Kebekol
†Aderiano Ramon

Parents in Law: †Manuel B. Sablan/+Cecilia T. Sablan
Brothers/Sisters in law: †Efrain T. Sablan
†Beatrice T. Sablan
†Ricardo T. Sablan
†Luis T. Sablan
†Joseph T. Sablan

Daily mass is offered at the Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 a.m.
On Friday, January 6, 2012, Nick's remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home to the Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:00 a.m. followed by the Responso and Holy Rosary. The Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 a.m. followed by the burial at the Chalan Kanoa cemetery.
Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

**Si Yuus Maase and Kom Kmal Mesulang**

**Frances, children, and family**


## Top 7 ways to detoxify your life

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

2012 is here and Do Your Part is kicking off a year of green challenges! January is "Detox Your Life" month. We're focusing on finding and eliminating the hidden chemicals that could be polluting your home and your family. To get you started, here are my "Top 7 Ways to Detox Your Life."

**1) Clean green**

Household cleaners can hide toxic chemicals and a clean house isn't supposed smell like a mountain breeze. All of those synthetic chemicals and fragrances can actually pollute the air inside your home. Find my seven must-have ingredients and recipes to clean your entire home at http://doyourpart.com/category/green-living/columns/.

**2) Free yourself of formaldehyde**

Formaldehyde is linked to a number of health issues, including asthma and cancer. It's often emitted over many years from certain pressed wood pieces, flooring adhesives, and paint. It's also emitted from wrinkle-free bedding, dry cleaned clothes, and many nail polishes. Choosing natural fibers that can be laundered and seeking formaldehyde-free home furnishings are a great first step at reducing your exposure.

**3) Ban VOCs from your home**

Formaldehyde is one of the most notorious volatile organic compounds (VOCs) but there are many others. They include benzene, toluene, methylene, and chloride. VOCs are found in paint, personal care products, furniture, carpets, and adhesives. You can specifically seek out low VOC paints and you'll want to do a little research to see what's really in the products you use at home.

**4) Choose better personal care products**

This really requires some work on your part but fortunately the Environmental Working Group's Cosmetic Safety Database, www.cosmeticsdatabase.com, makes it easy. You can search thousands of products to find out what's really in them and how they ranked compared to others.

**5) Know what you're eating**

When possible, opt for organic foods that are grown and processed without using synthetic chemicals or sewage sludge. Familiarize yourself with the so-called "Dirty Dozen" list to find out which produce items contain the highest amount of pesticide residue.

**6) Give BPA the boot**

Several studies have linked bisphenol-A or BPA to developmental problems, cancers, heart disease, diabetes, and infertility. BPA is used in polycarbonate (PC) containers that are often marked No. 7. Plastics marked No.1, No. 2, and No. 4 are safer choices.

**7) Choose natural pest control products**

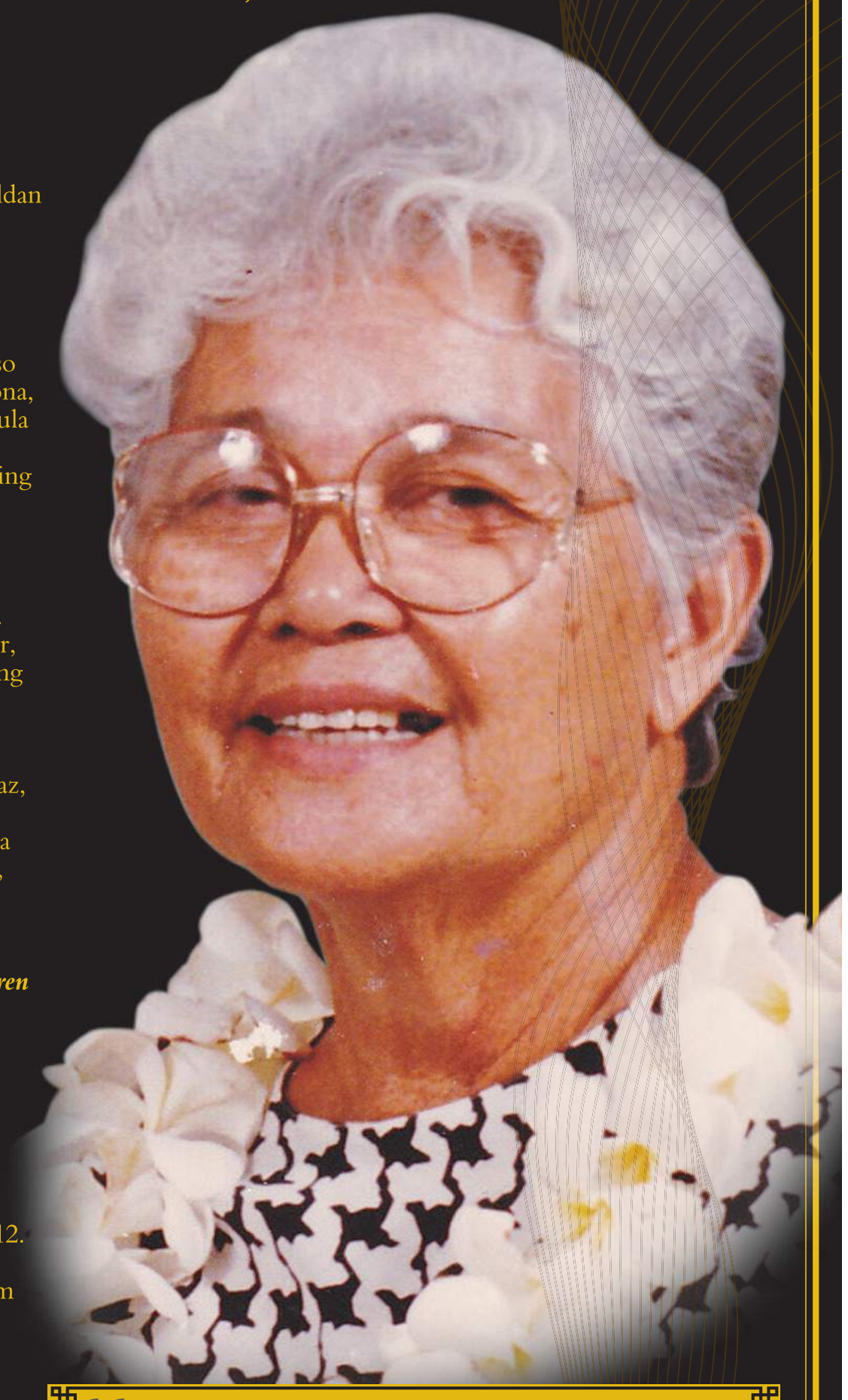
Chemical pesticides can be bad for you and your pets. Natural alternatives like vinegar, borax, or diatomaceous earth (DE) are effective and much safer. DE is a powder made from microscopic fossilized shells and works on everything from bedbugs to roaches.

You will find more information on avoiding all of these unnecessary chemicals at http://DoYourPart.com/Columns. Next month, take part in our trash challenge. We want you to commit to cutting your trash amount in half! Don't worry; we will help you along the way! Do Your Part in 2012 to reduce, reuse, and recycle your way into a greener, healthier lifestyle that's easier on your wallet.

*In Celebration of Her new Life*

# †Rosalia Aldan Fleming

**November 09, 1924 – December 29, 2011**



***In her new life, she now joins her:***

**Husband:** **Alfred Flores Fleming**

**Children and In-Laws:** Joaquin A. Fleming, Carmen A. Aquino, Consolacion "Connie" F. Powers, Dwight Ikehara, Alfonso S. Reyes

**Parents:** Joaquin Concepcion and Manuela Crisostomo Aldan

**Parents –In –Law:** Henry Gordon and Consolacion Flores Fleming

**Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:** Engracia "Aya" A. Dwayne Johnson Sr., Tomas C. and Mariana S. Aldan, Teresita and Justo L. Sanchez. Ignacio C. and Merced DLG. Aldan, Francisco C. Aldan, Alfonso Diaz, Gene Black, Rodney Bordallo, Jose Manglona, David "Kondo" Sandbergen, Thomas F. and Ursula Untalan Fleming, George F. and Juanita M. Fleming, Albert F. and Consolacion Ayuyu Fleming

***Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her children and their families***

**Anuncia** A. Reyes, **James** A. and Constanza Mendiola Fleming, **Ellen** F. Ikehara, **Michael** A. and Esther Sablan Fleming, **Donald** James Power, **Thomas** A. Fleming, **Deborah** and Kerat Fleming Mony, **Felipe** A. and Nora Manglona Aquino, **Manuela** A. and Rodel Manlulu

***She will be greatly missed by her Sisters and In-Laws***

**Julita** A. and Francisco C. Castro, **Helena** A. Diaz, **Maria** "Manting" A. and Antonio R. Sablan, **Pauline** A. Corliss, Margarita A. Aldan, Bernadita DLR. Aldan, Amparo DLG. And Jose P. Tenorio, Daisy F. Manglona, Lydia F. Black, Leonora F. Bordallo, Rudy F. Fleming

***She will also be missed by 25 grandchildren, 50 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great-grandchildren, numerous cousins, nieces and nephews***

Daily Mass of Intentions are being celebrated each evening at San Jose Church, Tinian followed by the recitation of the Holy Rosary. Eucharistic Celebrations are also offered each morning at 6:00am at Kristo Rai Church, Saipan.

Funeral Services will be held tomorrow Friday, January 06, 2012. Her remains will be escorted from Tinian Health Center to San Jose Church at 7:45am. Responso Service will be at 8:00am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:15am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:am followed by Interment Service at Tinian Cemetery where she will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers,

***Children and Family of the late***
***†Alfred Flores and †Rosalia Aldan Fleming***

*"A wife and mother of noble character was she, Providing for all through fruits of labor and industry. Ever faithful and pious, We honor her for all she has given, as we give her back unto the Lord."*

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**The Darkest Hour**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday thru Sunday | 1:25 | 4:25 | 7:25 | 9:40 |
| Monday | 1:25 | 4:25 | 7:25 | |
| Tuesday thru Thursday | | 4:25 | 7:25 | |

Emile Hirsch, Olivia Thirlby
Science, Fiction • Rated PG 13

*Synopsis*

Director Chris Gorak (Right at Your Door) teams with producer Timur Bekmambetov for this tense apocalyptic thriller centering on the fight for survival waged by five youths who find themselves stranded in Moscow during an alien invasion. As the invisible extraterrestrials absorb all of Earth's energy and life forms, finding a means of escaping the unstoppable attackers becomes a seemingly impossible task. Emile Hirsch, Olivia Thirlby, and Max Minghella star.

**We Bought A Zoo**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday thru Sunday | 1:10 | 4:10 | 7:10 | 9:30 |
| Monday | 1:10 | 4:10 | 7:10 | |
| Tuesday thru Thursday | | 4:10 | 7:10 | |

Matt Damon, Scarlett Johansson
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG

*Synopsis*

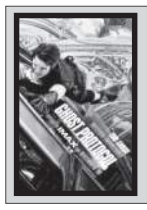
A widower (Matt Damon) purchases a zoo in order to bring his family back together in this Twentieth Century Fox adaptation of Benjamin Mee's autobiographical memoir. Cameron Crowe (Almost Famous) writes and directs based on a script by Aline Brosh McKenna.

★ ★ ★

**The Adventure of Tintin**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday thru Sunday | 1:30 | 4:30 | 7:30 | 9:50 |
| Monday | 1:30 | 4:30 | 7:30 | |
| Tuesday thru Thursday | | 4:30 | 7:30 | |

Jamie Bell, Andy Serkis
Adventure • Rated PG




**Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday thru Sunday | 1:15 | 4:15 | 7:15 | 9:55 |
| Monday | 1:15 | 4:15 | 7:15 | |
| Tuesday thru Thursday | | 4:15 | 7:15 | |

Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner
Spy film, Action • Rated PG 13

**The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday thru Sunday | 1:00 | 4:00 | 7:00 | 10:00 |
| Monday | 1:00 | 4:00 | 7:00 | |
| Tuesday thru Thursday | | 4:00 | 7:00 | |

Daniel Craig, Rooney Mara
Thriller • Rated R

**Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday thru Sunday | 1:20 | 4:20 | 7:20 | 9:35 |
| Monday | 1:20 | 4:20 | 7:20 | |
| Tuesday thru Thursday | | 4:20 | 7:20 | |

Jason Lee
Children's/family • Rated G

**Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday thru Sunday | 1:05 | 4:05 | 7:05 | 9:45 |
| Monday | 1:05 | 4:05 | 7:05 | |
| Tuesday thru Thursday | | 4:05 | 7:05 | |

Robert Downey, Jr. Jude Law
Action, Mystery • Rated PG 13

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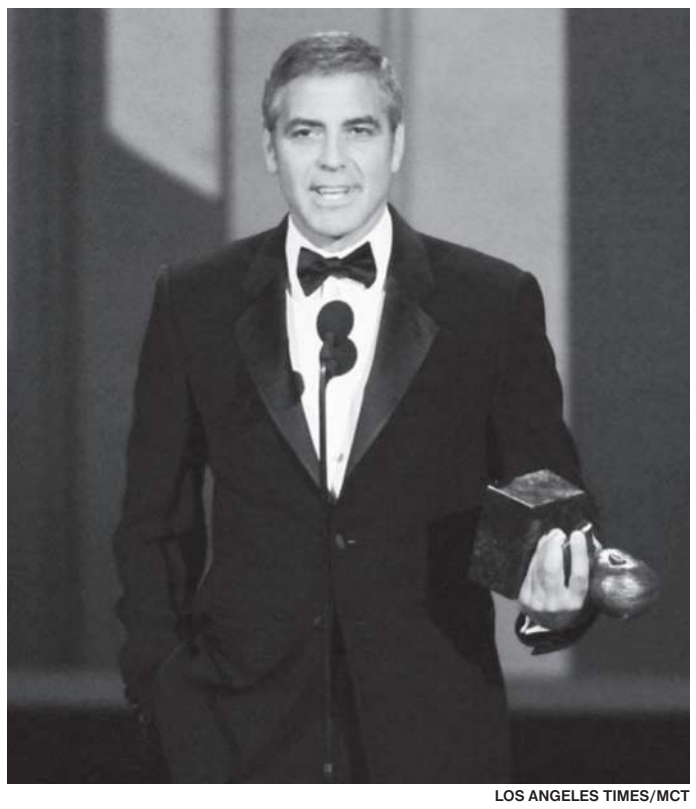
# Life & Style

## Clooney looks forward to working more behind camera

By JOHN HORN
LOS ANGELES TIMES



LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

George Clooney received the humanitarian award at the 62nd Annual Primetime Emmy Awards Show on Sunday, August 29, 2010 at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles, California.

**LOS ANGELES**—George Clooney just wrapped up a career year but precisely when he couldn't be more admired as an actor, he says he is pulling back from the very job that brought him renown.

At a point in his life when it would be easy to play safe—he's 51, has a supporting actor Oscar for "Syriana" and can pay the bills with his international TV commercials—Clooney instead placed two speculative and not insubstantial bets on himself last year.

Just as people have grown understandably indisposed toward anything political, Clooney directed, produced, co-wrote and starred in the election drama "The Ides of March." Rather than play the candidate any number of people wish he were (Clooney says he's not interested in actually running for office), the actor's "Ides of March" presidential contender is about as honorable as John Edwards. And while starring in an Alexander Payne movie might initially appear risk-free, the film's cuckolded protagonist is not necessarily the type of character Clooney's peers would fight to play, and it proved to be a part Clooney said concerned him no end. "I was terrified from the moment it started," he says.

Clooney's depiction of Matt King in "The Descendants" is sure to land him in the lead actor race, and the film itself looks destined for a best picture nomination. But like a baseball slugger who decides he'd rather coach than play even as he's batting .300, Clooney says that he'll start taking himself off the acting field, that he's not excited to work in front of the camera and that he'll be far more selective in performing in the years ahead.

Next November's lead role opposite Sandra Bullock in director Alfonso Cuaron's sci-fi thriller "Gravity" could mark the beginning of the progression toward more directing and producing work, even if Clooney (and filmmaking partner Grant Heslov) are developing an array of projects with potentially juicy parts, including their recently announced movie about the Smothers Brothers.

"I'm less and less interested in seeing myself on screen," Clooney says. "I want as an actor to become more economic in terms of the kinds of things and parts I play. As you get older, and you sort of slowly move into that character actor world, there's actually some fun stuff to do. But I don't enjoy seeing myself on screen in certain things anymore." Fortunately, "The Descendants" proved not to be one of those certain things.

As adapted by Payne and screenwriters Nat Faxon and Jim Rash from Kaui Hart Hemmings' novel, "The Descendants" places Clooney in the midst of a family in free fall. Matt King's wife, Elizabeth, has suffered an irreversible brain injury, forcing the largely clueless father of two daughters to plot a course not only for his wife's last days but also his children's future.

Clooney has said that a mistake actors often make is imagining the best, rather than the worst, version of a movie they are about to star in; it is in tempering your own optimism, the actor says, that you often make the most informed choices. With "The Descendants," the question Clooney had to answer was: Could you win in playing a loser?

Payne, who declined to cast Clooney in "Sideways" (he chose Thomas Haden Church instead), said he felt Clooney was exactly right for "The Descendants."

"I was eager to work with the guy. He's so affable, and everyone who's met him just thinks the world of him," Payne said. "He was perfect for the part. He wasn't perfect for Jack in 'Sideways.' He wasn't the right guy. This one: right look, right temperament, right age, right degree of fame that could propel an American commercial narrative film—just the right guy. And, boy, was I lucky."

In selecting Clooney as Matt King, Payne had to believe that moviegoers could imagine a woman married to him would not only be unfulfilled but also cheat on her husband with "Scooby Doo's" Matthew Lillard. But Payne says she did so only because Lillard's Brian Speer paid attention to her when her spouse didn't.

But King learns from his shortcomings. He "finds love and forgiveness by accepting his role in his failures," Clooney says. "And I thought that was a very tough and interesting thing to play."

Tough and interesting are apt descriptions of "The Ides of March" as well, a movie with so many commercial disadvantages that Warner Bros. declined to back it and Clooney and Heslov had to personally sell the independently financed movie territory by territory at the American Film Market in Santa Monica last year.

The film's candidate, Mike Morris, appears to be Clooney in a nice suit—he's unapologetically liberal (as president, he'll eliminate the internal combustion engine), charismatic and, you might at the outset believe, steadfastly principled. But a young campaign strategist (Ryan Gosling) uncovers a skeleton in the Morris closet, and all of a sudden he's revealed to be as inauthentic and cynical as most actual politicians.

Even if the movie was not a commercial and critical smash (although Gosling has an outside shot at supporting actor attention, as do Clooney, Heslov and Beau Willimon for adapted screenplay), it sharpened Clooney's interest in directing. "Directing is infinitely more creative, as is writing, and it's more fun to do," says Clooney, who hasn't yet decided which movie he will helm next.

## 'Help,''Bridesmaids' earn nods for producer award

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—The historical epic "War Horse," the Deep South drama "The Help," the silent film "The Artist" and the wedding comedy "Bridesmaids" are in the running for top honors from the Producers Guild of America.

Also nominated Tuesday for the guild's big film prize are two George Clooney tales: the family drama "The Descendants" and the political saga "The Ides of March." Two Paris stories made the cut, the family adventure "Hugo" and the romantic fantasy "Midnight in Paris."

Rounding out the 10 nominees are the thriller "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" and the sports tale "Moneyball."

Animated contenders for the Jan. 21 awards are "The Adventures of Tintin," "Cars 2," "Kung Fu Panda 2," "Puss in Boots" and "Rango."

Along with honors from other Hollywood professional groups such as actors, directors and writers guilds, the producer prizes help sort out contenders for the Academy Awards, whose nominations come out Jan. 24.

The Producers Guild field represents a heavy-hitting lineup of Oscar winners and nominees, including Steven Spielberg ("War Horse" and "Tintin"), Martin Scorsese ("Hugo"), Woody Allen ("Midnight in Paris"), David Fincher ("Girl with the Dragon Tattoo"), Alexander Payne ("The Descendants") and Bennett Miller ("Moneyball").

Besides starring in "The Descendants," Clooney multitasked on "Ides of March," directing, producing, co-starring and co-writing.

Among other Producers Guild nominees:

■ **Film documentary**: "Beats, Rhymes & Life: The Travels of a Tribe Called Quest"; "Bill Cunningham New York"; "Project Nim"; "Senna"; "The Union."

■ **TV comedy series:** "30 Rock"; "The Big Bang Theory"; "Glee"; "Modern Family"; "Parks and Recreation."

■ **TV drama series**: "Boardwalk Empire"; "Dexter"; "Game of Thrones"; "The Good Wife"; "Mad Men."

■ **Long-form television**: "Cinema Verite"; "Downton Abbey"; "The Kennedys"; "Mildred Pierce"; "Too Big to Fail."

■ **Live entertainment and talk TV**: "The Colbert Report"; "The Ellen DeGeneres Show"; "Real Time with Bill Maher"; "Saturday Night Live"; "The 64th Annual Tony Awards."

■ **TV competition series**: "The Amazing Race"; "American Idol"; "Dancing with the Stars"; "Project Runway"; "Top Chef."

# Backers of Calif. tax target Kardashian

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** (AP)—Kim Kardashian, the model who has parlayed reality TV fame into a personal fortune for her family and herself, is the target of a new online advertising campaign asking Californians to support a proposed ballot initiative to raise taxes on its wealthiest residents.

An online video from the Courage Campaign flashes images of Kardashian living the good life and proclaiming that "being on TV has changed my life, because you get lots of free stuff."

The video says Kardashian made $12 million in 2010 but paid just 1 percentage point more in California income taxes than someone making $47,000—10.3 percent vs. 9.3 percent.

The video ad, which is posted at www.Taxkimk.com , urges Kardashian to support the proposal for a tax increase.

"Not everyone was born a Kardashian, but we all need to pay our fair share," it says.

A spokeswoman for Kardashian, Pearl Servat, did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday from The Associated Press.

The Courage Campaign and the California Federation of Teachers are among the groups backing a so-called millionaire's tax that would raise income tax rates by 3 percent to 5 percent for individuals who make more than $1 million a year.

Proponents say the tax would raise about $6 billion to help fund public schools and local services that have been hit hard during the recession, such as social services, programs for the elderly and public safety.

Forbes magazine estimated Kardashian made $12 million in 2010.

Through their reality TV show, "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" and other promotions, Kardashian, her two sisters and their mother have created a celebrity brand name for themselves, appearing in endorsements for everything from weight-loss products to fast food.

Their father, Robert Kardashian, was an attorney and close friend of O.J. Simpson who played a prominent role in his murder trial.

After a lavish, made-for-TV wedding event last summer that reportedly netted the couple millions of dollars in royalties, Kim Kardashian filed for divorce in October, citing irreconcilable differences just 10 weeks after she wed NBA player Kris Humphries.

# Wendi Deng Twitter account found to be a fake

**LONDON** (AP)—A Twitter account purported to be linked to the wife of media mogul Rupert Murdoch has turned out to be bogus.

Twitter spokeswoman Rachel Bremer said Tuesday that the popular micro-blogging site "mistakenly verified" the "Wendi-Deng" account as genuine for a short time. She said the company apologizes for the confusion.

Bremer said Twitter would not discuss its verification procedures, which are put in place to prevent hoaxes.

The person who opened the "Wendi-Deng" account tweeted Tuesday that it had been a spoof.

News International spokeswoman Daisy Dunlop said while the account was fake, the Twitter account opened over the New Year's weekend by News Corp. chief Rupert Murdoch was genuine. Murdoch has used the account to offer political and literary views in the last few days.

The Associated Press and other news organizations including the Guardian and the Telegraph newspapers quoted the "Wendi-Deng" account in earlier stories. The tweets under the account appeared to be lighthearted and didn't raise substantive doubts.

It wasn't immediately clear why the person set the hoax, but late Monday said they hoped Murdoch and his wife would have a better 2012.

The last year has seen Murdoch, 80, embroiled in a British phone hacking scandal that has threatened his global media empire.

# Raitt preps 1st album in 7 years for April

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—Bonnie Raitt is releasing a new album in 2012, her first in seven years.

"Slipstream," out April 10, follows a long break from studio work for the Grammy-winning Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member. She lost her parents, her brother and her best friend.

Raitt

"I hadn't stopped moving in a very long time so I really wanted to take a total break and not concentrate on making a new record or what I was going to do next," Raitt said. "So that was really valuable because I waited until I was really ready to come back."

"Slipstream" is the 62-year-old slide guitarist's first album since 2005's "Souls Alike" and will be the first release on her own record label, Redwing Records. The 12-track album will feature four songs recorded with producer Joe Henry and his musicians, which she describes as experimental. The remainder of the album is self-produced with her touring band.

She says she's thrilled with the resulting eclectic mix of blues, rock and soul that even includes a dash of reggae and Celtic sounds. She covers Bob Dylan's "Million Miles" and "Standing in the Doorway," and Loudon Wainwright III's "You Can't Fail Me Now" as well.

"It's just a new batch of great songs," Raitt said.

AP

Lady Gaga and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, left, kiss during the New Year's celebration, Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012, in New York.

# Bloomberg: Girlfriend's kiss better than Gaga's

**NEW YORK** (AP)—New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg wants the world to know that while he might have shared a New Year's kiss with Lady Gaga it was nothing compared with the one he got later from his longtime girlfriend.

The 69-year-old politician and the youthful pop star locked lips shortly after leading a Times Square crowd in a final-minute countdown to midnight. They made quite a pair: He was in an old-fashioned American-flag sweater; she had her eyes hidden behind a sparkly mask.

When asked about the kiss Tuesday, Bloomberg said he'd "be remiss" if he didn't say "the best kiss of the night came after that," from girlfriend Diana Taylor.

Bloomberg also called Gaga "a young lady," noting she's about the same age as his daughter Georgina, who's in her late 20s.

# Broadway's 'Spider-Man' musical earns new record

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Look who's sporting a big smile behind his mask on Broadway—none other than the once-mocked Spider-Man.

The Broadway League reported Tuesday that "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" took in a whopping $2,941,790 over nine performances last week, which is the highest single-week gross of any show in Broadway history.

The musical shattered the old record held by "Wicked," which last January recorded the then-highest one-week take on Broadway with a $2,228,235 haul, though over an eight-show week.

"We knew the possibility," said Michael Cohl, one of the lead producers of "Spider-Man" along with Jeremiah "Jere" Harris. "I don't think that Jere or I really thought we'd ever get there but we're ecstatic that we did."

While the eight-versus-nine show disparity gives "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" something of an asterisk, the Spider-Man producers pointed out that head-to-head last week with "Wicked" over nine shows each, their musical handily won. "Wicked" took in $2,712,535 last week.

# Strict mom wins applause despite teen's complaints

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY**: I was sure "Emotionally Abused in California's" letter (Nov. 2) was inspirational, but fictional. The 15-year-old writer felt her mother was unreasonable because of the rules Mom enforced and the chores the teen was required to do. Then I started re-reading my high school diary. There were many parallels between this girl's complaints and my own as a teen.

My mom also didn't let me go to parties if she didn't know the parents and confirm they'd be home; my curfew was 11:30 p.m. on weekends because Mom couldn't sleep until I was in for the night. She always offered to host Friday pizza-and-movie night at our home to ensure my friends and I had a safe place to hang out.

Like "Emotionally Abused," I also resented my lack of freedom, but because of her efforts, I never had run-ins with the law, never got an STD or became pregnant, and I didn't try drugs or alcohol. When I expressed my frustration, Mom would say, "When you're a parent, you'll understand."

Now that I have two small children, I DO understand. I hit the Mom jackpot! I'm grateful for her guidance, love and the boundaries she set for me. I'll be sending her that column and a copy of this letter to you as a thank-you for making decisions that kept me grounded and safe.

WON THE JACKPOT IN MICHIGAN

**DEAR WON THE JACKPOT: When that letter hit print, I was overwhelmed with mail from readers supporting my response and sharing experiences that validated "Emotionally Abused's" mom's parenting techniques. I took special note of the responses from teens, which I'll share tomorrow. Today, some comments from adults:**

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: It's refreshing to know there are still parents who actually care about how they raise their children. Bringing a child into this world is a tremendous responsibility. It requires years of 24/7 vigilance, teaching and love to produce a moral, loving and productive pillar of our society. Some parents today do not take their responsibility seriously. How we raise our children will directly affect how we function as a society in the future.

CONCERNED DAD IN LAS VEGAS

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: I am a teacher of many spoiled, lazy, irresponsible and incompetent students. If all parents were as dedicated in rearing their children as this teen's mother, my job would be wonderful. She has the necessary parenting skills to mold her child into a responsible, productive and mature adult. She's an awesome woman!

TEACHER IN NASHVILLE, GA.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: It's about time parents raise their children appropriately. I grew up with much less than "Emotionally Abused," but with more rules and restrictions.

My mom divorced my physically abusive father when I was 3. There was no alimony or child support. Mom did it all on her own. She even went back to school to get a college degree.

Parents are not meant to be their children's BFF. They are responsible for raising their children with morals and social values. Welcome to the REAL world.

JACKSON, WIS., READER

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My 15-year-old daughter often gives me a hard time for being a diligent mom. I laughed out loud at your response and let her read it. She said, "Wow, that's totally US with the exception of Catholic school." She has started being nicer to me. Thanks, Abby, for validating my efforts to be a good mom.

DOING MY BEST IN COLORADO

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR READERS: To read a longer version of this column, go to DearAbby.com.**

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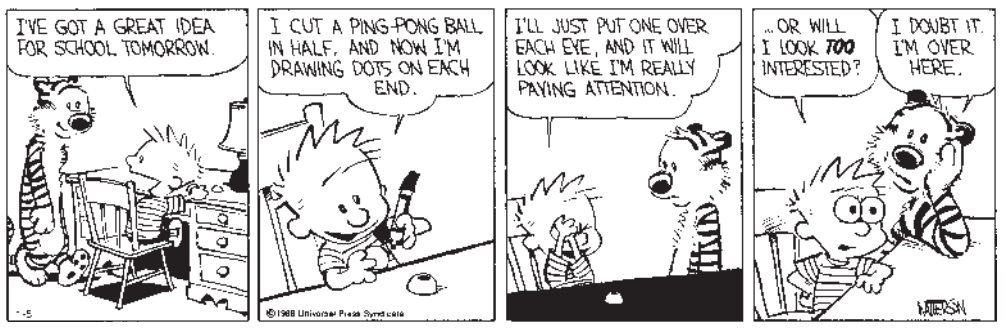
*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*

# Pastimes

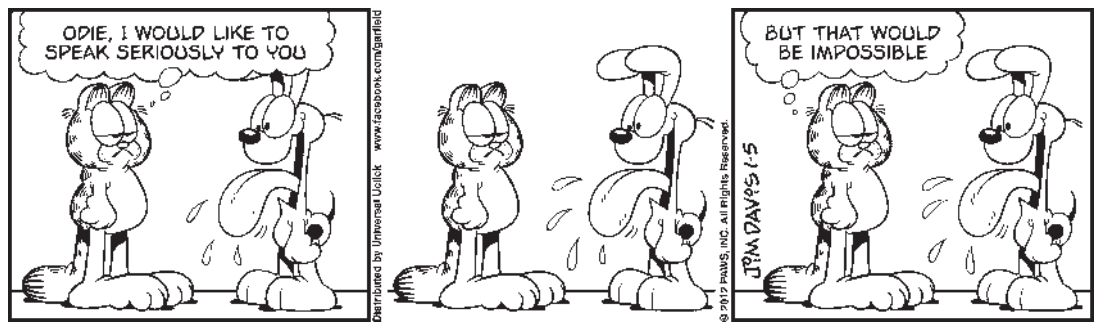
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'VE GOT A GREAT IDEA FOR SCHOOL TOMORROW.
I CUT A PING-PONG BALL IN HALF, AND NOW I'M DRAWING DOTS ON EACH END.
I'LL JUST PUT ONE OVER EACH EYE, AND IT WILL LOOK LIKE I'M REALLY PAYING ATTENTION.
..OR WILL I LOOK TOO INTERESTED?
I DOUBT IT. I'M OVER HERE.
WATTERSON

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis


ODIE, I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK SERIOUSLY TO YOU
BUT THAT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
JIM DAVIS

## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I CAN HELP YOU WRITE YOUR MEMOIRS.
YOU CAN? YOU? YOU'RE A WRITER?
I'M A GREAT WRITER.
...AND SELF-CONFIDENT.
SERIOUSLY, IF YOU READ THE NEWSPAPER YOU MIGHT KNOW MY WORK.
YOU'RE A COLUMNIST?
NOT QUITE. I WRITE A LOT OF LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ABOUT UNICYCLIST RIGHTS.

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

No, I THINK You're MISTAKEN.
Well, I Guess We'll JUST HAVE To AGREE To DISAGREE.
No, I DON'T HAVE To DO THAT.
Yes, You DO!
NEVER!!
You STUPID JERK!!

## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

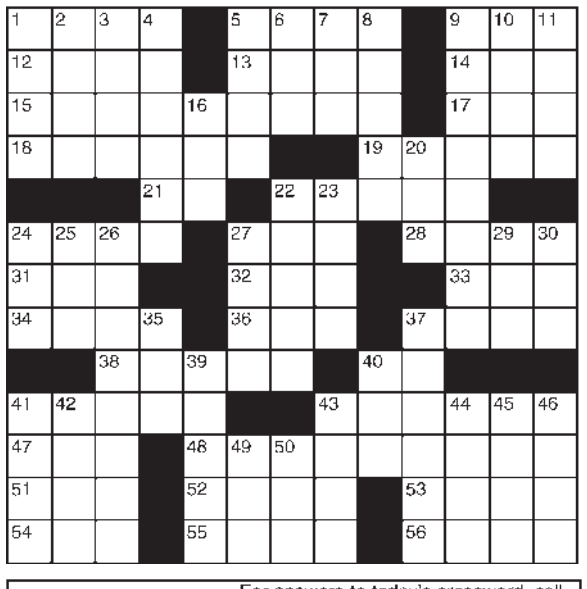
**ACROSS**
1 Employer
5 Tulip, at first
9 Pair
12 Pulitzer winner James
13 Sandwich treat
14 Disencumber
15 Ornamentations
17 Fuss
18 Soap opera, e.g.
19 Bank job, e.g.
21 Lumberjack's need
22 India's first prime minister
24 Picnic invaders
27 "30 Rock" star
28 Recognize
31 Round Table address
32 Director Spike —
33 Dead heat
34 Thick chunk
36 Toss in
37 Snitched
38 High heels, often
40 Battery size
41 Void
43 Big step
47 Evening hour, in a way
48 Dulcimer's shape
51 Egos' counterparts
52 Medal earner
53 Unsigned (Abbr.)
54 Ignited
55 Cushiony
56 Singer Mouskouri

**DOWN**
1 Crazy
2 Shrek, e.g.
3 Burn some
4 Brownish photo hues
5 Reach 212 degrees F.
6 Grecian vessel
7 Journey segment
8 "The Garden of Earthly Delights" painter
9 Decorative quilt design
10 Broad
11 Smell
16 Peace (Lat.)
20 Noah's craft
22 Has to have
23 Watched
24 Ninny
25 Zilch
26 Member of a silent religious order
27 Envelope part
29 OPEC export
30 Tie the knot
35 However
37 Burroughs hero
39 Legends
40 Noshed
41 Satanic
42 Calf-length
43 Name for a Dalmatian
44 New Rochelle school
45 "My Heart Will Go On" singer
46 Writer Ferber
49 — Speedwagon
50 Remark from 43-Down

Solution time: 25 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | O | L | A | ■ | N | A | B | ■ | B | E | T | H |
| A | K | I | N | ■ | E | M | U | ■ | A | R | I | A |
| B | A | N | K | R | U | P | T | ■ | Z | U | L | U |
| E | Y | E | L | E | T | ■ | C | H | A | P | E | L |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | E | A | R | ■ | H | E | A | T | ■ | ■ |
| S | A | D | ■ | D | A | M | ■ | W | R | I | S | T |
| P | R | I | G | ■ | L | I | S | ■ | S | O | L | E |
| A | I | S | I | F | ■ | A | P | F | ■ | N | Y | C |
| ■ | ■ | B | A | M | P | ■ | A | S | H | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| M | O | U | S | S | E | ■ | R | A | I | S | E | S |
| A | L | P | S | ■ | A | B | R | U | P | T | L | Y |
| R | I | T | E | ■ | C | O | O | ■ | P | A | I | N |
| T | O | S | S | ■ | H | O | W | ■ | O | G | E | E |

Yesterday's answer 1-5



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY**: January Jones, 34; Bradley Cooper, 37; Diane Keaton, 66; Robert Duvall, 81.

**Happy Birthday**: Use your imagination and you will come up with a plan that will far exceed anything you have done in the past. Trust and believe in your abilities and you will achieve. Market your skills, and express what you bring to the table confidently. It's how you project your image that will help you get ahead. Your numbers are 4, 7, 19, 26, 34, 37, 42.

**ARIES** (*March 21-April 19*): Consider ways to bring in extra cash. A sudden change of plans will help you realize a service you have to offer. Take the initiative with regard to a partnership you want to pursue. Love and romance are highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

**TAURUS** (*April 20-May 20*): A false impression may cause you to overreact. Step back and view your situation before you say or do anything that may work against you. A misunderstanding is apparent if you aren't clear about what you want or what you are willing to do. ✪✪✪

**GEMINI** (*May 21-June 20*): Emotional issues will be brought to the surface. You are best to keep an open mind and listen to what's being said and offered. A quick change on your part can actually help things turn out to your benefit. ✪✪✪

**CANCER** (*June 21-July 22*): You may be left in the dark regarding what everyone else is doing. Make adjustments to suit your needs, but be prepared to adapt to whatever comes your way. You need to be versatile if you want to keep up and make an impression. ✪✪✪

**LEO** (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Getting along with others will be essential if you want to advance. Mix and mingle with people who share your interests and goals. Love is in the stars, and your charm will make you hard to resist. Spontaneity will enhance your popularity. ✪✪✪✪

**VIRGO** (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Emotions will lead to unpredictable behavior. Whether it's you or someone else who is upset, you are best to stick to the truth and clear matters up quickly. Letting a situation fester will only make matters worse. You need a break. ✪✪

**LIBRA** (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Socializing will bring out the best in you. Take on a challenge and show everyone how capable you are when it comes to creative thinking and versatility. Changes to your residence will increase its value. Focus on financial gain. ✪✪✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Discipline will be required, especially when working with a partner. Keep an open mind, but don't let anyone railroad you into something you don't want using emotional blackmail. Set your priorities and stick to them. Strive for equality. ✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Tie up loose ends and stand behind your work. It's important to send the right signal, especially when dealing with those who can affect your future. Diplomacy and charm will work wonders. Love, romance and travel are highlighted. ✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't let added responsibilities get you down. Stellar work will increase your chance to get ahead. Mixing business with pleasure will open doors. Your ability to schmooze will give you a competitive edge. ✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Prepare to make changes that will alter your lifestyle. Adjusting your living arrangements will open up opportunities that will help stabilize your finances. More responsibility will enhance your reputation. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

**PISCES** (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Question anyone who is procrastinating. You need firm answers from the people you are trying to do business with. Don't settle for something you don't really want. You're better off starting from scratch than making do. ✪✪

**Birthday Baby**: You are an opportunist who instinctively knows how to negotiate and get your way.

*Eugenia's Web sites:* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 8 | | 5 | | | |
| | 2 | | | | | 3 | 4 | |
| | 1 | | 3 | | 7 | | | |
| 8 | | 4 | | | | 7 | | 6 |
| | | | | 6 | | | | |
| 7 | | 3 | | | | 9 | | 5 |
| | | | 5 | | 4 | | 3 | |
| | 3 | 7 | | | | | 9 | |
| | | | 9 | | 1 | | | |

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 4 |
| 8 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| 7 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 5 |
| 2 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 7 |
| 9 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| 4 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 1 |
| 5 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 9 |
| 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 6 |
| 6 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 8 |

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/05

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

AIR FORCE BASIC TRAINING — Solution: 10 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | S | T | A | C | T | I | C | A | L | S | C | T | O | L |
| R | U | E | E | H | S | T | I | F | E | N | E | B | Ⓡ | L |
| E | H | I | C | A | G | R | M | G | I | C | L | E | Ⓐ | I |
| C | T | C | D | U | M | U | A | N | H | T | D | T | Ⓝ | R |
| O | A | L | A | A | R | D | O | N | M | A | N | A | Ⓚ | D |
| V | E | A | N | E | N | I | I | T | E | E | A | E | G | M |
| E | R | S | N | A | T | C | T | L | D | I | H | N | S | I |
| R | T | S | B | I | A | E | E | Y | N | E | I | M | R | S |
| Y | E | U | S | L | S | L | S | T | S | N | I | E | D | S |
| D | R | O | L | N | C | C | E | C | I | L | B | C | N | I |
| S | P | I | E | A | O | N | A | A | I | Y | E | A | A | O |
| T | K | F | T | U | S | P | R | T | C | H | S | R | M | N |
| S | E | S | R | E | E | T | A | A | R | E | T | E | M | D |
| D | B | S | A | D | O | R | M | E | E | A | U | E | O | I |
| O | E | S | T | T | Y | T | U | D | W | L | C | R | C | A |

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Aid, Airman, Bandages, Benefits, Career, Class, Command, Course, Cuts, Cyber, Defense, Dental, Dorm, Drill, Duty, Escape, Ethics, Fitness, Guidance, Handle, Heal, Intense, Leader, Learn, Military, Mission, Obstacle, Position, Rank, Recovery, Retreat, Salute, Security, Skill, Tactical, Tasks, Teach, Team, Technical, Test, Tough, Training, Weapons

**Yesterday's Answer: Blackface**

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Wanwisa Jantham Rios
PO Box 505900
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. (670) 235 1530

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

| | |
|---|---|
| **IN RE THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF AS GUARDIAN OF THE ESTATE OF: K.J.J.R.,** Minor Child<br><br>**By:**<br><br>**WANWISA JANTHAM RIOS,** Petitioner. | **FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0585**<br><br>**NOTICE OF HEARING** |

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor child by Wanwisa Jantham Rios, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before Honorable Judge Perry B. Inos on the 26th day of January, 2012 at 9:30am or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

| | |
|---|---|
| **YUHONG HE,** Petitioner,<br><br>versus<br><br>**YUJIU PAN,** Respondent. | **FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0608**<br><br>**SUMMONS** |

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Ilmwal Aweewee, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and send to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 22nd day of December, 2011.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

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|---|---|---|
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| • 3-Liner with picture | $24 | $42 |
| • 5-Liner with picture | $36 | $57 |

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

**Classified Ads**

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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**Classified Ads**

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### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

*Saipan Tribune* will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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# Kobe scores 37, Lakers hold off Rockets

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Kobe Bryant scored 37 points, Andrew Bynum had 21 points and 22 rebounds in the first 20-20 game of his career, and the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Houston Rockets 108-99 Tuesday night for their fourth victory in five games.

Pau Gasol scored 14 points for the Lakers against the franchise that tried to acquire him in a three-team trade in the offseason, and the Lakers survived a tight fourth quarter with Bryant's brilliance and tough defense, holding the Rockets without a field goal for just under 6 minutes.

Kobe eventually took over, scoring seven consecutive points down the stretch of the Lakers' third straight win over the Rockets at home.

Kyle Lowry scored 22 points and Luis Scola added 20 for the Rockets, who opened a three-game trip with their eighth loss in 11 road games against the Lakers. Kevin Martin had 12 points on 5-of-17 shooting, missing seven of his eight 3-point attempts.

Rockets swingman Courtney Lee had to be helped off the court with 10:40 to play after he collapsed in obvious pain from his right leg on a noncontact play in front of the Lakers' bench. Lee, who scored nine points, couldn't put weight on the same leg that bothered him with cramps during training camp.

The Lakers were smooth down the stretch in their seventh game in 10 days, matching Oklahoma City for the NBA's busiest early-season schedule.

Houston scored six straight points to trim Los Angeles' lead to 93-89 with 3:54 to play, but Bryant hit a jumper and converted a three-point play on consecutive possessions before willing home a fallaway jumper with 1:59 left, putting the Lakers ahead by 11.

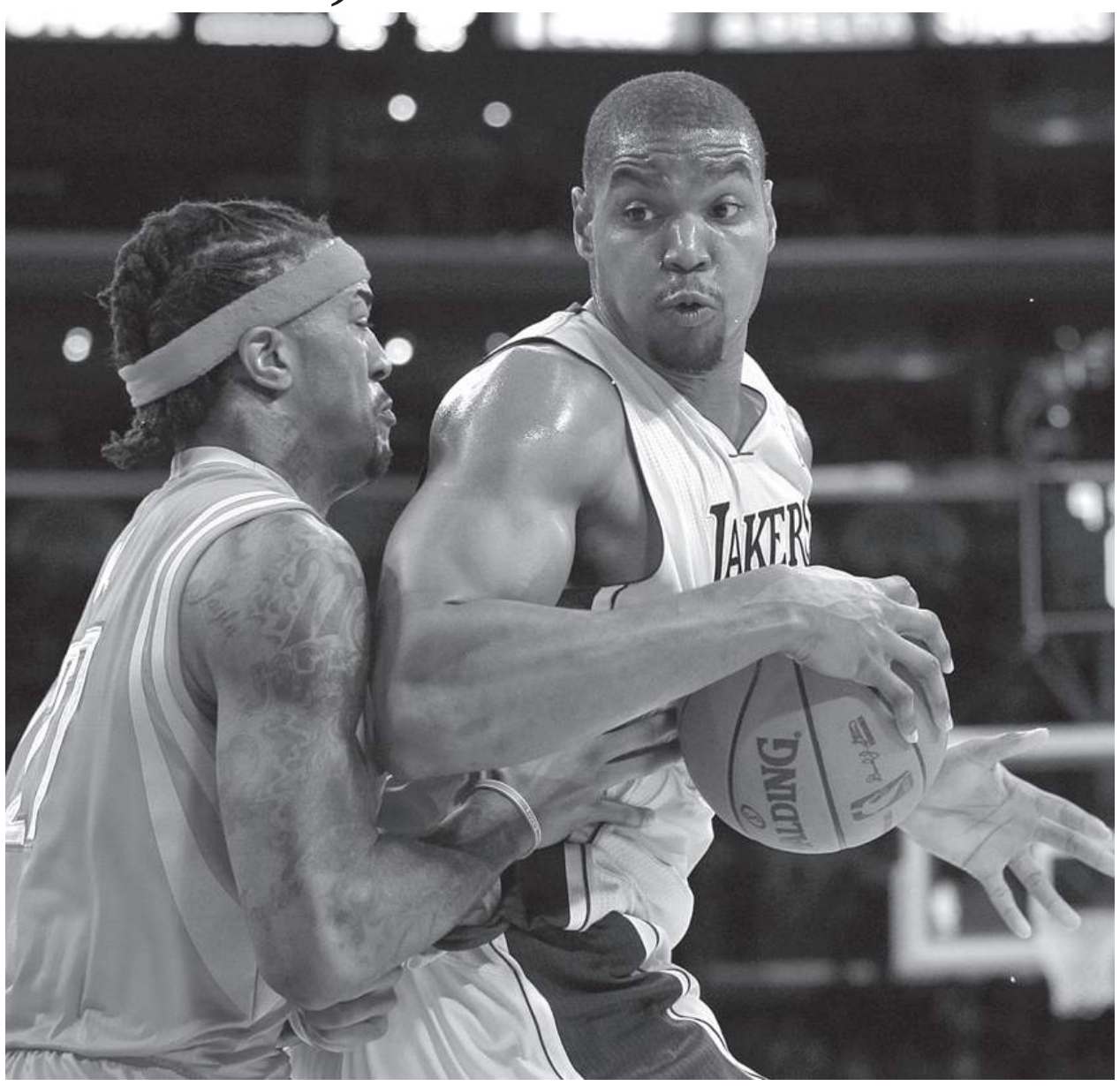
Bynum had another dominant low-post performance in his third game back from suspension, barely missing his career-high of 23 rebounds in his second career 20-rebound game. The Lakers also got a solid game from fellow 7-footer Gasol, who was nearly traded to the Rockets last month in a three-team deal for Chris Paul, but the trade was scuttled by the NBA.

The Lakers are still adjusting to new coach Mike Brown's schemes and standards, as evidenced by their inconsistency—an 0-2 start and three straight wins followed by an unsightly loss at Denver on New Year's Day which featured a 6-for-28 shooting performance by Bryant.

So with a jam-packed schedule leaving no time to practice, Brown is teaching whenever possible. He watched a DVD of the Denver loss with Bryant on the plane ride home, analyzing every shot—and his staff did the same with every significant player over the last 24 hours.

Los Angeles led by eight points in the first half, but Houston led for much of the third quarter on 11 points by Chase Budinger, who finished with 16.

Bryant spent the first few minutes of the fourth quarter in the locker room, but returned to the game after Bynum and four reserves kept the Lakers ahead.



AP

Los Angeles Lakers' Andrew Bynum, right, is pressured by Houston Rockets' Jordan Hill during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2012.

### Bulls 76, Hawks 74

In Chicago, Luol Deng's layup with 3.7 seconds to play lifted the Chicago Bulls to a nail-biting comeback victory over the Atlanta Hawks in the NBA.

Derrick Rose scored 17 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter to rally the Bulls from a 19-point deficit. Coming out of a timeout with the score tied in the final seconds, Deng cut along the baseline and took a feed from Joakim Noah to put Chicago ahead.

Atlanta's Joe Johnson shot an airball at the buzzer, giving the Bulls the win.

Rose had missed a runner with 21 seconds left, but Atlanta's Jeff Teague then missed two free throws. Rose scored with 9.9 seconds left to put the Bulls up 74-73.

Al Horford, who led the Hawks with 16 points, was fouled and split two free throws with 7.7 seconds remaining.

### Jazz 85, Bucks 73

In Salt Lake City, Al Jefferson scored a season-high 26 points to lead Utah past undermanned Milwaukee.

Paul Millsap had 13 points and 12 rebounds, hitting a jump shot to clinch the game with 1:07 to play.

Drew Gooden had 24 points and 12 rebounds for the Bucks, who missed the inside presence of center Andrew Bogut, who was absent for personal reasons, while Mike Dunleavy was out with groin pain.

Led by Brandon Jennings' 4-for-19 performance, the Bucks shot just 31 percent and had 10 shots blocked by the Jazz, including a career-best five by Derrick Favors.

### Trail Blazers 103, Thunder 93

In Oklahoma City, LaMarcus Aldridge had 30 points and eight rebounds to help Portland beat Oklahoma City.

Wesley Matthews added 16 points for the Blazers, who held the Thunder to 34 percent shooting in the second half on an off night for All-Stars Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook.

Westbrook scored 22 points on 8-for-18 shooting and Durant finished with 19 points while hitting 8 of 26 shots. James Harden made his sixth career start and led the way for the Thunder with 23 points.

### Grizzlies 113, Kings 96

In Memphis, Rudy Gay scored 23 points in Memphis' win over Sacramento.

Sam Young added 20 points for the Grizzlies, who outrebounded Sacramento 49-41.

With Memphis holding a double-digit lead for a bulk of the second half, the Kings' reserves got extended minutes. Rookie Jimmer Fredette scored 17 points to lead Sacramento.

### Cavaliers 115, Bobcats 101

In Cleveland, Kyrie Irving scored 20 points and fellow rookie Tristan Thompson added 16, leading Cleveland past Charlotte.

Cleveland continued its strong 3-point shooting, making 10 of 21 from behind the arc, having shot 16 and come within one longshot of equalling the franchise record on Sunday.

Charlotte has lost four straight since opening the season with a win. D.J. Augustin scored a season-high 26 points for the Bobcats.

# Source: Coco Crisp agrees to deal with A's

**OAKLAND, Calif.** (AP)—Free agent center fielder Coco Crisp agreed to a two-year contract to return to the Athletics, filling one key void in the Oakland outfield heading into the 2012 season.

A person with knowledge of the negotiations on Tuesday confirmed Crisp would return to the A's, a deal worth $14 million first reported by ESPN. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team hadn't made a formal announcement and details were still being finalized. The contract also includes a club option for 2014.

Crisp, who generated inquiries to varying levels from about half of the major league clubs this winter, had hoped to continue playing on the West Coast. The A's already lost left fielder and slugger Josh Willingham and right fielder David DeJesus in free agency earlier this offseason, then outfielder Ryan Sweeney was traded to the Boston Red Sox last week along with All-Star closer Andrew Bailey.

Earlier Tuesday, the A's announced they had traded outfielder Jai Miller to the Baltimore Orioles for cash considerations. Miller was designated for assignment by Oakland on Dec. 23 after the A's received four players in a trade with Washington that sent starting pitcher Gio Gonzalez to the Nationals.

The 32-year-old Crisp has batted .269 with 16 home runs, 92 RBIs, nine triples and 81 stolen bases in his two seasons with Oakland, which is in rebuilding mode in hopes of being able to relocate to San Jose, construct a new ballpark and become a big spender - though the San Francisco Giants hold the territorial rights to Santa Clara County. As is customary with the low-budget A's, general manager Billy Beane has unloaded several star players in recent weeks, including starting pitchers Gonzalez and Trevor Cahill, Bailey and fellow reliever Craig Breslow.

Crisp is likely to have newly acquired Josh Reddick playing alongside him. Reddick came to the A's in the trade with Boston last week.

The 24-year-old Reddick, who began last season at Triple-A Pawtucket before being promoted in late May, batted .280 with seven homers and 28 RBIs in 87 games for the Red Sox in 2011. He can play any outfield spot.

Crisp played his first four seasons with Cleveland three in Boston and one in Kansas City prior to joining the A's. He appeared in only 75 games during an injury-plagued 2010 season, but made the most of his chances when he was healthy. The A's exercised their $5.75 million option on Crisp for 2011, when he rebounded to play in 136 games and stole a career-high 49 bases and was caught stealing nine times.

The A's went 74-88 last season but made strides after Bob Melvin came aboard as manager in June in place of Bob Geren. They haven't posted a winning record or earned a playoff berth since being swept in the 2006 AL championship series by Detroit.

In 2010, Crisp went on the disabled list in April with a broken pinkie finger and was placed on the DL again in May with a strained ribcage muscle. Crisp broke the pinkie a second time on Sept. 18 and missed the remainder of the season.

## *Indians sign RHP Robinson Tejeda*

**CLEVELAND** (AP)—The Cleveland Indians have signed free agent reliever Robinson Tejeda to a minor league contract and invited the right-hander to camp.

Tejeda spent the past four seasons in Kansas City's organization. He has a 23-27 career record with a 4.42 ERA in 183 games. The 29-year-old has also pitched for Philadelphia and Texas. Last season, Tejeda split time between the Royals and their Triple-A Omaha affiliate.

He spent five weeks on the disabled list with a shoulder inflammation.

Tejeda pitched in nine games for the Royals in 2011, going 0-1 with a 6.14 ERA. He appeared in 54 games for the Royals in 2010. The Indians will give him a chance to win an open spot in their bullpen, and if he doesn't, he'll provide depth in case of injuries.

# Angelo fired as Bears' GM after team crumbles

**LAKE FOREST, Ill.** (AP)—The Chicago Bears won four division titles and reached the Super Bowl while Jerry Angelo was general manager. They also crumbled in a big way this season.

Now Angelo's out.

He was fired Tuesday following a team collapse marked by injuries to Jay Cutler and Matt Forte and a drug scandal involving Sam Hurd.

Angelo had been on the job 11 years, but the Bears called for change after an 8-8 season. A questionable draft record and an inability to fill big holes, particularly on offense, led to his ouster.

His dismissal comes after a wild season in which the Bears at one point seemed a lock to make the playoffs. A five-game losing streak spoiled a 7-3 start, keeping Chicago out of the playoffs for the fourth time in five years, and Angelo wasn't the only one on his way out on Tuesday.

The Bears also confirmed that offensive coordinator Mike Martz and quarterbacks coach Shane Day won't be back. Martz had an expiring contract, and there had been plenty of speculation he would be gone after two seasons.

AP

Chicago Bears president and CEO Ted Phillips, right, speaks about the dismissal of Jerry Angelo as team's general manager, and Mike Martz as offensive coordinator, as Bears chairman George McCaskey listens during an NFL football news conference at Halas Hall in Lake Forest, Ill., on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2012.

Coach Lovie Smith, however, appears safe for now. The team said on its website he will remain in his job and "continue to evaluate his coaching staff."

Angelo was signed through the 2013 season, but he was undone on a number of fronts. The next GM will inherit a team that could use help on the offensive and defensive lines, at wide receiver and in the secondary. Forte's rookie contract is up. Pro Bowl linebacker Lance Briggs would like a new one even though he has two years left on his six-year deal.

Still, the Bears believe they can make a run next season. Angelo won't be the one overseeing it, though.

"I have tremendous respect for him and am sorry to see him go," Smith said in a statement. "But I also will embrace the opportunity that comes with change. As I said yesterday, we have an excellent core in place. I look forward to working with a new general manager to bring a championship to Chicago."

Cutler broke his right thumb trying to help make a tackle following an interception during a victory over San Diego on Nov. 20, and the Bears didn't win again until the season-finale at Minnesota on Sunday.

It didn't help that Forte sprained a ligament in his right knee against Kansas City on Dec. 4, leaving the offense without its two best players. Those would be blows for any team, but they were crippling for Chicago. Throw in Hurd's arrest on federal drug charges in mid-December, and what looked like a promising season turned into a disaster for the team and organization.

The injuries exposed a glaring lack of depth as the Bears tumbled out of playoff contention.

The low point might have been the loss at Denver when Marion Barber ran out of bounds late in regulation. That stopped the clock, giving the Broncos enough time to tie the score. If that weren't enough, he lost a fumble in overtime, helping set up the winning field goal.

Meanwhile, backup quarterback Caleb Hanie was a bust filling in for Cutler, going 0-4 as the starter before the Bears turned to Josh McCown.

Chicago claimed Kyle Orton off waivers after Cutler went down, but Kansas City had priority and got him. The Bears then brought in Josh McCown, and Angelo left himself open to second-guessing when he decided not to go after Donovan McNabb once Minnesota let him go.

The lack of a reliable backup quarterback, continuing issues on the offensive line and the inability to land a top-tier receiver increased the heat on the general manager.

Roy Williams struggled to hold onto the ball and get open in his first season with the Bears after an unsuccessful run in Dallas. Hurd, another Cowboys import, was quickly waived after being charged with trying to set up a drug-dealing network following his arrest with more than a pound of cocaine.

The arrest only compounded Angelo's problems. Now the Bears are picking up the pieces.

For all the criticism, Angelo did have successes. The Bears won those four division championships, including the 2006 team's run to the Super Bowl and last year's trip to the NFC title game.

He traded for Cutler and signed Julius Peppers. But he also had a spotty draft record that included such high-profile disappointments as Cedric Benson and Rex Grossman.

Former first-rounder Chris Williams has mostly struggled, and first-round pick Gabe Carimi missed most of his rookie season with a right knee injury. Angelo also was unable to find a top receiver, through the draft, a trade or free agency.

Chicago didn't have anyone ready to step in when a solid but aging line that helped the Bears reach the playoffs in 2005 and 2006 began to go downhill.

Martz called for deep drops and Cutler took repeated poundings. That changed after Cutler made his feelings clear. The Bears started getting the ball out of his hands quicker, handing the ball off more to Forte and piling up wins. But just when it looked as if they had saved their season, everything came apart.

## Martz out as Bears' offensive coordinator

**LAKE FOREST, Ill.** (AP)—Mike Martz is out after two seasons as the Chicago Bears' offensive coordinator.

The team confirmed Tuesday that Martz will not be back. Hours earlier, general manager Jerry Angelo was fired.

The changes come after the Bears finished 8-8 following a collapse marked by season-ending injuries to quarterback Jay Cutler and running back Matt Forte, along with the arrest of backup receiver Sam Hurd on federal drug charges.

Chicago dropped five in a row following a 7-3 start before closing out the season with a win at Minnesota.

Martz had an expiring contract, and speculation that he might be on his way out mounted as the losses piled up. Quarterbacks coach Shane Day will not be back, either.

"After meeting with Mike this afternoon, we both felt it was best to move in different directions," coach Lovie Smith said in a statement. "I appreciate the job he and Shane did for us over the last two years."

The Bears averaged 21.5 points the past two years, and they ran for 2,015 yards this season with Forte leading the way, just the second time in 21 years they passed the 2,000-yard rushing mark.

Things were clicking in a big way until Cutler broke his right thumb against San Diego on Nov. 20. The Bears were closing out their fifth straight win to improve to 7-3 when he was injured trying to help make a tackle following an interception late in a 31-20 victory.

From there, everything fell apart.

As if losing Cutler wasn't bad enough, the Bears took another hit two weeks later when Forte sprained a ligament in his right knee early in a loss to Kansas City, leaving Chicago without its two best offensive players.

Caleb Hanie struggled in a big way filling in for Cutler, going 0-4 as the starter before Josh McCown got the nod. There were costly mistakes by backup running back Marion Barber in back-to-back close losses to the Chiefs and Denver, and Roy Williams also dropped a touchdown pass in that seven-point loss to Kansas City.

Meanwhile, Martz's name was linked to head-coaching openings at UCLA and Arizona State, as well as the Jacksonville Jaguars, and just last week Smith snapped when he was asked about his offensive coordinator's future.

He fired back, "What kind of question is that anyway? At this time, what kind of question is that? Why would you ask a question like that anyway?"

He was also noncommittal when asked about his coordinator's status on Monday.

Martz, who hired Smith as his defensive coordinator when he was the coach in St. Louis, said he would like to be back, but that's not happening. Now, Smith is looking for his fourth offensive coordinator as he prepares for his ninth season.

Offensive line coach Mike Tice might be first in line for an interview even though he has never been an offensive coordinator. He was heavily involved with the offense as the Minnesota Vikings' head coach for four seasons.

Martz, the mastermind of "The Greatest Show On Turf" as offensive coordinator and head coach of the Rams, was viewed by many as an odd fit for Chicago, someone who tried to force his system on a team that simply didn't have players such as Isaac Bruce, Torry Holt and Orlando Pace.

In Chicago, he left himself open to second-guessing at times, whether he was calling a failed end-around for Earl Bennett in the NFC championship game last year against Green Bay or having Hanie attempt a throwback screen that got intercepted in his first start against Oakland.

The biggest point of contention was his reliance on deep drops in the early going each of the past two years, leaving Cutler to take a big beating. The Bears turned it around when they committed more to the run and allowed Cutler to move around and get rid of the ball quicker. Chicago won five straight before the big collapse and averaged about 32 points during that stretch, with Cutler leading the way.

## Jeff Fisher interviews for Dolphins coaching job

**DAVIE, Fla.** (AP)—Jeff Fisher landed at the Miami Dolphins' complex Tuesday. Now the question is whether the Dolphins will land Fisher.

Fisher interviewed for their head coaching job Tuesday, arriving via owner Stephen Ross' helicopter. He flew off several hours later.

Fisher is believed to be the Dolphins' top choice, and Ross is willing to pay big money, but competition from other NFL teams may be fierce.

The Buccaneers and Rams fired their coaches on Monday, increasing to five the number of coaching vacancies. The Rams' vice president and chief operating officer, Kevin Demoff, happens to be the son of Fisher's agent, Marvin Demoff.

The Dolphins caught a break when the Chargers said Tuesday they'll keep coach Norv Turner. Fisher, a Southern California native, likely would have found the San Diego job appealing.

Fisher appears to be the highest-profile candidate available. He coached the Titans franchise for 17 years and led Tennessee to the 2000 Super Bowl. He stepped down a year ago as the league's longest-tenured coach, saying he needed a break, and sat out the 2011 season.

The Dolphins fired Tony Sparano last month with three games to go in his fourth season as their coach. They satisfied the NFL's Rooney rule requiring an interview with a minority candidate when they met Monday with interim coach Todd Bowles.

Fisher has a career record of 142-120 (.542). He led his team to at least 12 wins four times. He coached more games for one franchise than all but six coaches, all Hall of Famers.

However, his most recent playoff victory came in January 2004. His most recent winning record was in 2008 when the Titans squandered the No. 1 seed in the AFC by losing in the divisional round.

The Dolphins (6-10) missed the playoffs for the ninth time in the past 10 years. The losing season was their third in a row, the franchise's longest such stretch since the 1960s.

# Will Pacquiao regain past glory in 2012?

2011 is a year that World Boxing Organization (WBO) welterweight champion Manny Pacquiao (54-3-2, 38 KO's) would most probably like to forget. It could also be referred to as Manny's year of discontent.

His fights with Shane Mosley and Juan Manuel Marquez were both huge financial successes. But "Pacman" fell far short of what was expected of him in a pugilistic sense.

Pacquiao's bout with former great, but now badly faded Shane Mosley in May was not the thriller that boxing fans had expected. It was widely believed at the time the fight took place that Manny and his trainer Freddie Roach originally did not want Mosely as his opponent. It is also thought that Top Rank CEO Bob Arum prevailed on Pacquiao and Roach to accept Shane as an opponent because of his huge fan base and that Arum would take care of selling the fight.

Pacquiao normally makes an estimated $20 million a fight, mainly due to the amount of money Pay Per View (PPV) buys brings in. Arum got his way and Manny wound up fighting the 39-year-old Mosley. The fight wound up being a huge disappointment mainly because after Pacquiao floored Mosley in the 3rd round, Shane chose not to engage and went into full survival mode for the balance of the fight.

Many boxing observers pointed out that Manny did not exhibit his normal side to side and lateral movement during the fight. It was later revealed that "Pacman" suffered from leg cramping during the match hampering his mobility. Despite winning nearly every round Manny's performance was disappointing.

Then in November the long awaited rematch between Pacquiao and his longtime nemesis WBO/WBA lightweight champion Juan Manuel Marquez took place. It was the 3rd meeting between the two with both previous fights ending in controversy. The first fight was scored as a draw and Manny won the 2nd fight by a razor thin margin.

It was thought by boxing pundits that Pacquiao would dominate Marquez in their 3rd encounter because Marquez was now 38 years old and was still fighting at lightweight while Manny had successfully moved up to welterweight. Further Pacquiao was dominant at the higher weight while retaining his lightning speed.

## GOALS

*From Page 28*

### THURSDAY'S GAMES
### Astig Futsal 9, Ayuyu 1

Astig Futsal was also victorious in its game last week, whipping the Ayuyu.

Gariguez jump-started the one-sided game, nailing four goals, while Jeraldine Castillo added two. Johnson, Ito, Dianne Pablo, and Vergara scored one goal each. The Ayuyu's lone goal in the match came from Clea San Nicolas in the first half.

### IT&E 6, Mean Machine 1

In the boys U18 division, IT&E topped Mean Machine.

Jin Han Yoon and Joyner teamed up in the easy victory, firing two goals apiece, while Evert Van Der Maas and Chris Park posted one goal each.

Mean Machine avoided a shutout when Jun Maliti scored in the second half.

### FRIDAY'S GAMES
### Astig Futsal 8, We-D-Fly 2

Astig Futsal's boys U15 squad also recorded an easy win last week after downing We-D-Fly.

Three Astig Futsal players scored multiple goals with Jeff Palacios, William Hinson II, and Jireh Yobech drilling two each, Marc Gerald Mora and Tanapon Unsa gaining one goal apiece to complete Astig Futsal's domination of We-D-Fly.

Scottt Kim and Brian Lee scored for We-D-Fly, who has yet to win in the league.

### Konflikt 20, Shirley's Boys 1

In the other boys U15 match last Friday, Konflikt routed Shirley's Boys.

Joyner sizzled for six goals for Konflikt and his eight other teammates also lit up the scoreboard. Jewell chipped in four goals, Izuka, John Taisacan, Hall, and Kenneth Domingo had two each, and Del Rosario and Jake Lee made one apiece.

Shirley's Boys' only goal in the game was courtesy of Rodwealth Espana.

### Thundercats 10, Mean Machine 0

In the lone boys U18 match, the Thundercats shut out Mean Machine.

Brian Lee led the Thundercats with his four goals, while Zhi Peng Lin scored three. Daniel Agulto had a pair, while goalie Don Cabrera played offense in the second half and added one goal.

Meanwhile, Mean Machine will try to break into the win column when it faces the undefeated IT&E tonight at 7:30pm. In the first game at 6:30pm, Astig Futsal and We-D-Fly collide in the boys U15 match.

## MARCEAU

*From Page 28*

namely Cedric Lassonde, Ben Allen, Jacqui Slack, and Graham Wadsworth. Many of these athletes will be doing XTERRA Philippines before they come to Saipan," Mojica said in an email to *Saipan Tribune.*

Mojica managed to invite these pros to join XTERRA Saipan after making a trip to the 2011 XTERRA World Championship in Maui, Hawaii last October.

Marceau had his XTERRA Saipan debut in 2004 and won the off-road race right away with a time of 2:33:20. He also topped Tagaman en route to claiming the PIC Double crown. Then in the next three years, the "Swiss Machine" went on to defend the men's title. The 2000 Sydney and 2004 Athens Olympics participant timed in at 2:33:47 in the 2005 XTERRA Saipan to beat Japan's Hideo Fukui (2:34.48) and 2:35:06 in 2006 to edge another Japanese triathlete, Yu Yumoto (2:55:28). In his last year in the grueling off-road race before missing the event for four years, Marceau submitted his best time in XTERA Saipan at 2:27:16 to foil the upset bid of United Kingdom's Sam Gardner (2:36:58) and Australia's Andrew Noble (2:39:56).

Noble went on to win XTERA Saipan in 2008 with Marceau starting his four-year absence, while Gardner reigned supreme in the annual event from 2009 to 2011. He will not be able to defend his title this year, as he has to attend to his wife, who will be giving birth to their first born in March.

In the four years he missed XTERRA Saipan, Marceau opted to join a few races around the world. Last year, his most notable event and win came from the lung-busting Extreme-Man 226 event in Salou, Spain in June. The Swiss completed the 3.8-kilometer swim, 180-km bike ride, and 42.2-km run on the hot and hilly course on the Mediterranean coast of Spain in 9:29:04.

Then four months later, he also returned to the XTERRA World Championship in Maui and finished sixth overall with a time of 2:29:40.

Meanwhile, with pros joining XTERRA Saipan and possibly Tagaman, Mojica is asking the help of the members of the sports community for a home stay arrangement for the visiting athletes.

## DOCOMO

*From Page 28*

Additionally, as of yesterday, the four-team U17 bracket shows Rollers AA and Proa-A capping separate wins after completion of their first round of games, while U12's Rollers A had twice bested sister team Rollers A.

U15's Docomo Rollers are riding a three-game wining streak and are almost a sure bet to appear in the finals. Other participating teams include host IT&E (1-1), a group sponsored by the Department of Youth Services (1-1), the G-Girls (1-1), the Micronesian Brokers Inc. Rollers (0-1), and Hoops (0-2).

Docomo started its tear on Monday with a swift 34-14 victory over Hoops and came out on top of a doubleheader on Tuesday to keep its streak alive.

Docomo shared the rock well on Monday as Alcor Admana, Mike Espinosa, and Toshi Pangelinan led the squad with six points apiece.

Docomo edged DYS, 40-37, in its first pairing and went on to knock down the G-Girls, 42-31, to close the night.

Docomo's Emersopn Feria carried the team in the nail-biter against DYS with 10 markers, while his teammates Braylan Floresca and Prince Factor chipped in eight apiece in support. Docomo clung to a 20-15 lead at the half and milked the clock to escape with the win.

DYS' Renan Lansang led all scorers with 17 points that was complemented by 13 points from Perez Regis.

The G-Girls managed a slim, 19-18, edge at the half in Tuesday's second matchup, but fell apart in the clutch.

After being held to just one basket in the opening 16-minutes, Factor delivered eight big points at crunch time that went with six in support from Feria.

Lia Rangamar's six free throws co-led Ira Palero, Jaime Mendoza, and the rest of the G-Girls.

It was disappointing for both losing squads as DYS notched a win over IT&E, 27-12, and the G-Girls topped MBI, 28-22, on opening day.

IT&E bounced back from its loss on opening day and bested Hoops, 36-25.

IT&E's young gun C.J. Morales carried the torch with eight points and received six apiece in support from Jet Cruz and Kyle Rios, while Hoops' Adrian Deluna scrambled for 10 checks on the short end.

In U12 play, Rollers A swept its Rollers AA counterparts, 35-23, on Day 1 and then again on Tuesday, 30-14. However, the age group is set up in an exhibition format and there are only two teams in the field, therefore the teams will still battle it out in a winner-take-all finals to open Friday's championship matches.

Meanwhile, U17's Rollers AA toppled Proa-B, 52-28, on Monday, while Proa-A outlasted Rollers A, 50-44, on Tuesday.

Rollers AA shot out to a 22-12 lead at the break and never looked back.

John Darag did the bulk of the damage for Rollers AA with 21 points and his teammates Erik Dela Rosa, Ralph Francisco, and Lawrence Deleon Guerrero finished with 10 markers apiece.

Proa-A built an early 21-15 margin at the half in their matchup and maintained it throughout the contest.

Shane Deleon Guerrero led Proa with eight points in the opening period, while his teammate Chris Mizer returned the favor in the second half.

Lester Vertudez proved to be hard to handle and mustered 21 points for Rollers A, but did not receive enough support from the rest of his crew.

Despite being his team's only player to finish in double-figures, Vertudez kept Rollers A within range, but Proa hit five pressure free throws late in the game to secure the win.

The U17 finals pairing was determined last night with the U15 semifinal left as tonight's lone scheduled matchup. This leaves time slots available in the case of bad weather.

According to the schedule the first game always begins at 5pm, regardless of the age group.

## ALL

*From Page 28*

the Enticer Series 2 set for Feb. 4 and Series 3 scheduled for March 10. Venues and times for the last two races will be announced later.

Entrance fee in each series is only $5 and proceeds will all go to the funds that will be used to help organize the two biggest triathlon competitions in the CNMI. Enticer Series organizers will also give away free entries to XTERRA Sport or Tagaman as raffle prizes after each race.

Besides the three Enticer events, a couple of run, bike, and swim races are scheduled starting this month until late March to prepare participants of XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman. After the Enticer Series 1, four more events are lined up this month: the XTERRA Trail Run 9Jan. 14), Tagaman Swim (Jan. 21), SDA Bike Race (Jan. 22), and Marianas Coffee Trail Run (Jan. 28).

For next month, there will be five events: Enticer 2 (Feb. 4), Northern Passage (Feb. 12), XTERRA Trail Run 2 (Feb. 18), and Saipan Swim Club's Meek and Mighty Swim (Feb. 25). Then in March, three more pre-XTERRA/Tagaman races will take place: Enticer 3 (March 10), XTERRA course ride (March 17), and Tagaman course ride (March 18). ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Philadelphia | 2 | 2 | .500 | – |
| Boston | 3 | 3 | .500 | – |
| Toronto | 2 | 3 | .400 | 1/2 |
| New York | 2 | 3 | .400 | 1/2 |
| New Jersey | 1 | 5 | .167 | 2 |

**Southeast Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Miami | 5 | 1 | .833 | – |
| Atlanta | 4 | 2 | .667 | 1 |
| Orlando | 4 | 2 | .667 | 1 |
| Charlotte | 1 | 4 | .200 | 3 1/2 |
| Washington | 0 | 5 | .000 | 4 1/2 |

**Central Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chicago | 5 | 1 | .833 | – |
| Indiana | 4 | 1 | .800 | 1/2 |
| Cleveland | 3 | 2 | .600 | 1 1/2 |
| Detroit | 2 | 3 | .400 | 2 1/2 |
| Milwaukee | 2 | 3 | .400 | 2 1/2 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| San Antonio | 3 | 2 | .600 | – |
| Memphis | 2 | 3 | .400 | 1 |
| Houston | 2 | 3 | .400 | 1 |
| New Orleans | 2 | 3 | .400 | 1 |
| Dallas | 2 | 4 | .333 | 1 1/2 |

**Northwest Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Portland | 4 | 1 | .800 | – |
| Oklahoma City | 5 | 2 | .714 | – |
| Denver | 4 | 2 | .667 | 1/2 |
| Utah | 3 | 3 | .500 | 1 1/2 |
| Minnesota | 2 | 3 | .400 | 2 |

**Pacific Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| L.A. Lakers | 4 | 3 | .571 | – |
| L.A. Clippers | 2 | 2 | .500 | 1/2 |
| Phoenix | 2 | 3 | .400 | 1 |
| Golden State | 2 | 3 | .400 | 1 |
| Sacramento | 2 | 4 | .333 | 1 1/2 |

**Yesterday's Games**

Cleveland 115, Charlotte 101
Chicago 76, Atlanta 74
Portland 103, Oklahoma City 93
Memphis 113, Sacramento 96
Utah 85, Milwaukee 73
L.A. Lakers 108, Houston 99

### NBA LEADERS

**Scoring**

| | G | FG | FT | PTS | AVG |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| James, MIA | 5 | 55 | 38 | 148 | 29.6 |
| Durant, OKC | 5 | 47 | 32 | 137 | 27.4 |
| Griffin, LAC | 4 | 40 | 24 | 104 | 26.0 |
| Love, MIN | 4 | 31 | 34 | 103 | 25.8 |
| Anthony, NYK | 4 | 27 | 40 | 100 | 25.0 |
| Bryant, LAL | 6 | 51 | 37 | 144 | 24.0 |
| Bargnani, TOR | 4 | 35 | 17 | 92 | 23.0 |
| Jennings, MIL | 3 | 23 | 17 | 68 | 22.7 |
| Nowitzki, DAL | 5 | 38 | 30 | 109 | 21.8 |
| Anderson, ORL | 5 | 36 | 9 | 102 | 20.4 |
| Williams, PHL | 4 | 24 | 24 | 81 | 20.3 |
| Aldridge, POR | 4 | 36 | 9 | 81 | 20.3 |
| Wade, MIA | 5 | 41 | 19 | 101 | 20.2 |
| Thornton, SAC | 5 | 36 | 16 | 100 | 20.0 |
| Rose, CHI | 5 | 32 | 27 | 99 | 19.8 |
| Ginobili, SAN | 4 | 26 | 14 | 79 | 19.8 |
| Martin, HOU | 4 | 27 | 10 | 77 | 19.3 |
| Lee, GOL | 4 | 30 | 15 | 75 | 18.8 |
| Allen, BOS | 5 | 30 | 17 | 93 | 18.6 |
| Rondo, BOS | 5 | 34 | 22 | 93 | 18.6 |

**FG Percentage**

| | FG | FGA | PCT |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hawes, PHL | 23 | 34 | .676 |
| Monroe, DET | 25 | 41 | .610 |
| Ginobili, SAN | 26 | 43 | .605 |
| Gasol, MEM | 18 | 30 | .600 |
| James, MIA | 55 | 92 | .598 |
| Blair, SAN | 26 | 44 | .591 |
| Wallace, POR | 21 | 36 | .583 |
| Hibbert, IND | 23 | 40 | .575 |
| Bosh, MIA | 36 | 63 | .571 |
| White, CHA | 20 | 35 | .571 |

**Rebounds**

| | G | OFF | DEF | TOT | AVG |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Howard, ORL | 5 | 23 | 62 | 85 | 17.0 |
| Love, MIN | 4 | 25 | 36 | 61 | 15.3 |
| Hawes, PHL | 4 | 10 | 40 | 50 | 12.5 |
| Bogut, MIL | 3 | 7 | 26 | 33 | 11.0 |
| Okafor, NOR | 4 | 15 | 28 | 43 | 10.8 |
| Hayes, SAC | 5 | 18 | 35 | 53 | 10.6 |
| Hibbert, IND | 4 | 13 | 29 | 42 | 10.5 |
| Camby, POR | 4 | 11 | 31 | 42 | 10.5 |
| McGee, WAS | 4 | 14 | 27 | 41 | 10.3 |
| Varejao, CLE | 4 | 18 | 23 | 41 | 10.3 |

**Assists**

| | G | AST | AVG |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lowry, HOU | 4 | 46 | 11.5 |
| Rondo, BOS | 5 | 50 | 10.0 |
| Paul, LAC | 4 | 39 | 9.8 |
| Calderon, TOR | 4 | 37 | 9.3 |
| Rose, CHI | 5 | 43 | 8.6 |
| Nash, PHX | 4 | 31 | 7.8 |
| Ellis, GOL | 3 | 23 | 7.7 |
| Collison, IND | 4 | 29 | 7.3 |
| Rubio, MIN | 4 | 29 | 7.3 |
| Miller, DEN | 5 | 36 | 7.2 |

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# 2011 DLX Basketball Invitational Friendship League

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

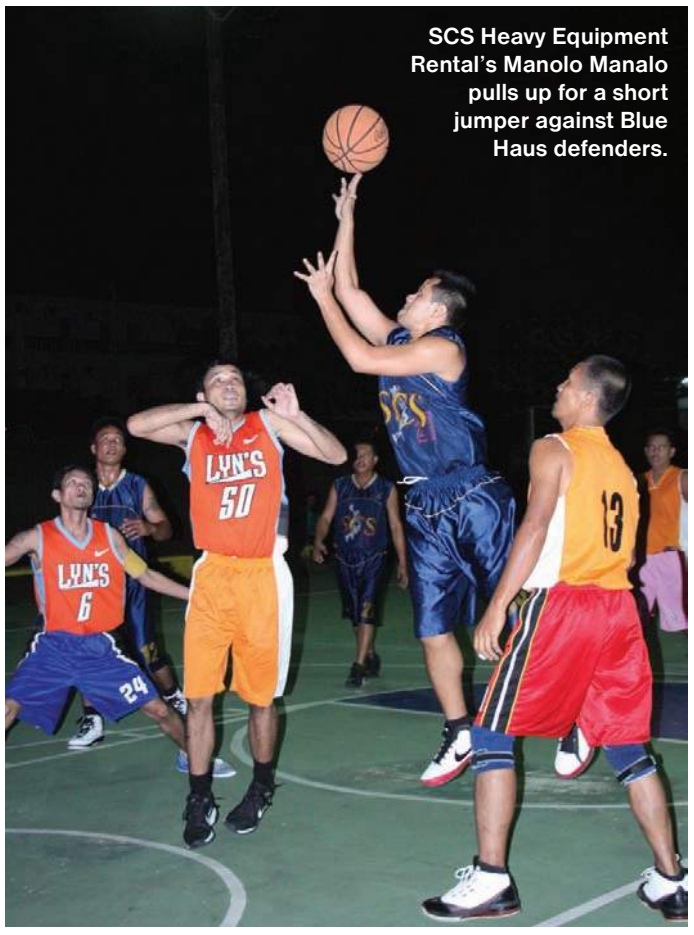
Wushin Express' Pete Lizama, left, goes for a layup against MDX's Ben Lisua during their game in the regular season of the 2011 DLX Basketball Invitational Friendship League at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

San Roque's Angelo Fernando, right, attacks the defense of Blue Haus' Edwin Camacho.

San Roque's John Jugos pulls up for a floater against two Blue Haus defenders.

A Pacific Postal player dribbles out of trouble during their game against Wushin Express.

SCS Heavy Equipment Rental's Ferdie Tobias, left, tries to keep the ball away from MDX's Ziddy Johanes.

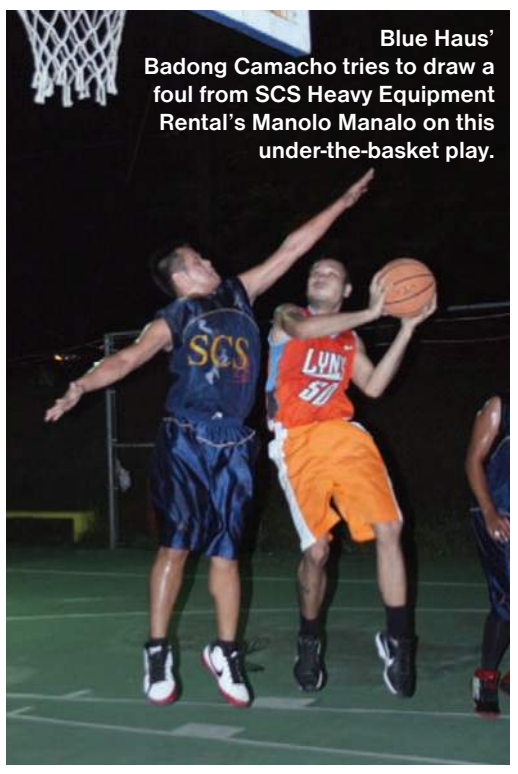


SCS Heavy Equipment Rental's Manolo Manalo pulls up for a short jumper against Blue Haus defenders.

Wushin Express' Dick Tibayan, left, pulls up for an uncontested shot.

MDX's Zack Babauta stretches for a layup against SCS Heavy Equipment Rental's Gilbert Miranda.

Blue Haus' Jun Abedes goes for a fastbreak layup.



Blue Haus' Badong Camacho tries to draw a foul from SCS Heavy Equipment Rental's Manolo Manalo on this under-the-basket play.

**Kobe scores 37, Lakers hold off Rockets**

24

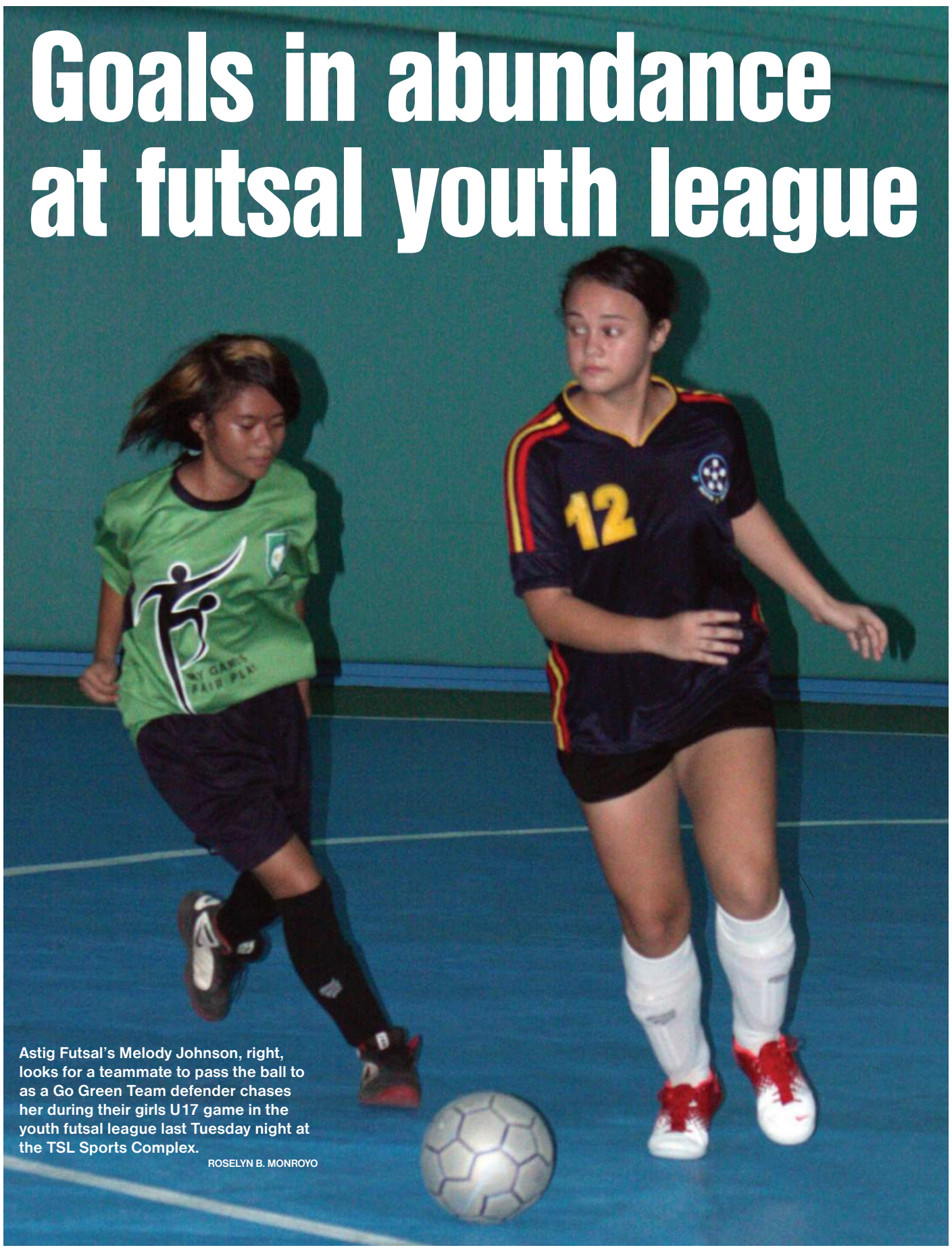
Saipan Tribune
# Sports

**Angelo fired as Bears' GM after team crumbles**

25



# Goals in abundance at futsal youth league



Astig Futsal's Melody Johnson, right, looks for a teammate to pass the ball to as a Go Green Team defender chases her during their girls U17 game in the youth futsal league last Tuesday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Winning teams in the last three play dates of the 2011 Saipan Soccer School Youth Futsal League registered goals galore at the TSL Sports Complex.

In the latest games played last Tuesday night, Konflikt recorded nine goals to beat We-D-Fly, which was held to only two goals, in the boys U15 division, while Astig Futsal clobbered Go Green Team, 15-3, in the girls U17 age group.

Dakota Hall had a hat-trick in Konflikt's lopsided win, while Enrico Del Rosario made a pair. Jehn Joyner, Kennedy Izuka, Jake Lee, and Hunter Jewell contributed one each. Brian Lee scored all the two goals of We-D-Fly.

In the girls U17 match, Kyla Ito had majority of Astig Futsal's goals, draining six, while Melody Johnson, and Alexa Vergara chipped in three apiece. Also making it to the scoreboard for Astig Futsal were Maica Aniana, Marielle Gariguez, and Mikky Vargas.

Chevy Kate Alipio and Maria Castro tallied one goal each for Go Green Team, which played with only four players.

*See GOALS on Page 26*

# Marceau returns for XTERRA Saipan

WWW.XTERRAPLANET.COM

Switzerland's Olivier Marceau, seen here waiting for the start of the 2011 XTERRA World Championship in Hawaii, is among the pros expected to compete in the 2012 XTERRA Saipan Championship in March.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Two-time Olympian Olivier Marceau of Switzerland will be back for the 2012 XTERRA Saipan Championship after missing the Crown Jewel in the last four years.

Wolf Mojica, president of Taga, Inc., which organizes XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman, said Marceau is one of the many pros competing in this year's XTERRA Saipan, which will be held on March 24.

"We also expect defending champion Shonny Vanlandingham, former champion Renata Boucher, PIC Double winner Carina Wasle of Austria, and Denison Freitas from Brazil. There are four other pros, friends of Sam Gardner,

*See MARCEAU on Page 26*

## All set for Enticer Series 1

The series of Enticer Races will start this Saturday at Paupau Beach.

The swim course will cover the Paupau Rock to the concrete boat dock and back, while there will be two courses for the bike and run legs. The on-road bike course will be from Paupau to Banzai and back and the run leg will be up to FEBC sign and back to the starting line. For the off-road course, bikers will leave Paupau and then head right to Marianas Country Club up to the one million gallon tank, turn left to FEBC road, left to middle road, and then another left turn back to the starting line. For the run leg, triathletes must turn right up to the one million gallon tank and return to Paupau.

Registration will begin at 6am, while the race will start at 7pm.

The series of Enticer races will be held to prepare triathletes for the 2012 XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triatlon, which will be held on March 24 and 31, respectively.

There will be three pre-XTERRA/Tagaman races with

*See ALL on Page 26*

## Docomo Rollers lead RBC Christmas caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The U15 Rollers Basketball Club's Docomo Rollers are dialed in as the team to beat in this week's 2nd Annual RBC-IT&E Christmas Basketball Tournament held nightly starting at 5pm at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The U15 division represents the meat and potatoes of the double-elimination event because it showcases six teams.

*See DOCOMO on Page 26*

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Docomo Rollers' Alcor Admana tries to find an open shot against DYS in Tuesday's 2nd Annual RBC-IT&E Christmas Basketball Tournament U15 pairing at the Garapan Basketball Court.